



RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Section 16

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY: Martin Eden
PORTFOLIO AREA: Environment

SUBJECT: Establishing a Covid 19 public testing centre on Old Bank Lane car park

1. DECISION

To allow Deloitte MTS, working on behalf of the Government, to install a Covid 19 public testing centre on a section of Old Bank Lane car park (c.200 car spaces) for the benefit of people who live and work in the borough.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

Deloitte MTS have been commissioned by the Government to establish Covid 19 public testing centres across England.

Deloitte MTS have approached the Council to ask if they could utilise c.200 car parking spaces at Old Bank Lane car park to establish a Covid 19 testing centre primarily for people who live and work in Blackburn and Darwen.

Having a Covid 19 testing centre located within the Borough will be of great benefit to residents of Blackburn and Darwen and for people who work within the Borough who may wish to book a test.

3. BACKGROUND

Deloitte MTS has approached the Council to ask if they could utilise c.200 car parking spaces at Old Bank Lane car park to establish a Covid-19 testing centre, primarily for use by people who live and work in Blackburn and Darwen. Deloitte MTS intends to provide testing for the remainder of Pennine Lancashire by installing smaller testing centres in key locations.

The testing centre at Old Bank Lane car park will occupy c.200 car spaces and can provide Covid 19 tests for up to 1000 people a day.

Deloitte MTS will be responsible for erecting all temporary structures and equipment, along with staffing and securing the site. These arrangements are all enshrined within a Heads of Terms document and a 6 month Lease for an agreed section of Old Bank Lane car park.

The remainder of the car park (c.300 spaces) will be available for permit users, many of whom work at the Hospital and for patients and visitors to the Hospital who would pay and display to park on site. Those people visiting the testing centre will not be required to pay a parking fee.

Pay and display and permit income from the car parking site will be largely unaffected by losing 200 of the 500 car spaces available on Old Bank Lane as the Hospital are taking steps to minimise the

number of staff, patients and visitors to the site at the same time to reduce the spread of the Covid 19 virus, these measures include:

- Non-clinical staff will continue to work from home, currently c. 400 staff are home working.
- Appointment times for patients will be spread over seven days and over extended hours each day to reduce the number of patients in waiting rooms and treatment rooms at any one time. Patients who arrive by car will be asked to wait in their car until receiving a text to tell them to enter the Hospital and make their way to their appointment.
- The rotas worked by clinical staff will be amended to accommodate medical appointments taking place into the early evening and at weekends.

Due to the aforementioned measures, there will be less people on the Hospital site at the same time and this will reduce the demand for car parking spaces at Old Bank Lane car park.

Officers from the Highways service do not believe a 'borough' testing centre will create traffic and parking issues around the Hospital site as the maximum testing capacity is c.1000 tests per day and the number of tests could be reduced if needed by reducing the number of bookings available at particular times of the day or on certain days of the week if required, i.e. significant road works taking place in the local area.

The Hospital estates team have also been consulted about the siting of a Covid 19 public testing centre on Old Bank Lane car park and they are supportive of the testing centre being located at the site.

Deloitte MTS have issued Heads of Terms and a draft 6 month lease for the proportion of the land required for the testing centre. The Council's Legal Services have reviewed the documents and have no amendments to make to these documents. In accordance with the Legal advice provided, details of the demise will be marked in red on the site plans and photographic evidence of the site condition will be obtained for inclusion within the Lease. These will be completed following the site visit with officers from Deloitte MTS.

4. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Deloitte MTS did undertake a site visit at the former Darwen Moorlands High School site. They adjudged that the site could accommodate a Covid19 testing centre but would require enabling works and ground works to make the site accessible for up to 1000 test appointments a day. The Council would have been responsible for undertaking and paying for the enabling works and ground works which were estimated to cost c.£15,000.

The location of the site was also a cause for concern as it is located adjacent to a large housing estate and the site is in relatively close proximity to Goosehouse Lane, a major arterial road which carries a lot of traffic.

For the aforementioned reasons, this option was rejected.

Further information is available via the following link [] or from the report author

5. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

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| CONTACT OFFICER: | Martin Eden |
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| DATE: | 30 June 2020 |
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| BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: | |
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| Signed:  | |
| Director: Martin Eden | Date: 30 June 2020 |