Members’ questions and/or motions

Motion received from Councillors Scarborough and Henley

Re: Covid pandemic – test and trace system
Wellingborough Borough Council expresses concern that, so far into the COVID pandemic, the country still does not have an adequate testing and tracing system, putting the people of Northamptonshire at increased risk of suffering from coronavirus.

The lack of integration of Test and trace with local authorities prevents the timely offering of financial and practical support. In late recognition that its tracing performance could not improve without local participation, NHS Test and Trace have in recent months passed to local authorities the names of people with positive tests whom they failed to reach. In short, they are getting local authorities to deal with their failures.

This Council believes the only way to fully rectify the situation is for full control to be passed to local authorities, with the necessary funding to do the job properly, with national input providing any support necessary to ensure effective co-ordination.

We believe a local scheme will:
- Improve traceability
- Enable increased and targeted testing, including asymptomatic testing
- Be better integrated into existing Council COVID support services
- Be a more cost-effective solution
- Achieve greater community engagement
- Allow for the engagement of local volunteers

This Council agrees to add its voice to those challenging the current, failed system by asking the Leader to:
- Call on our Director of Public Health and the leader of the Council to support more local authority engagement in testing and tracing.
- Write to our MPs asking them for their support.

Proposed: Councillor Andrew Scarborough

Seconded: Councillor Adam Henley