

PCC COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Place and Economy
REPORT AUTHOR:	Steve Cox/Graham Hughes
REPORTING PERIOD:	Week Ending 17 th April

KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- 230 FFP3 face masks have been given by Skanska to PHE / NHS for the front line COVID response. This will require revised policies for highway maintenance which are being drafted. Highways works will now be focussed on emergency and Category 1 defects only;
- The Government wrote to the Combined Authority this week outlining plans for significant extra funding to support local bus companies. As an immediate result, Delaine have made further changes to their timetables to slightly improve service provision;
- Validation of all new planning applications is up to date;
- Officers continue to deal with planning applications and are carrying out site visits where possible in accordance with strict protocols. If site visits are not possible, applicants and agents are being asked to provide photographs and additional information as deemed necessary;
- Options for a third rest centre for rough sleepers have been prepared to ensure numbers in each are manageable, the locations are suitable and necessary support can be given to the rough sleepers;
- Redeployed PCC and CCC staff continue to provide a reassurance presence at the rough sleeper hotels and are also providing other services to ensure the safety of residents and surrounding communities;
- New guidance from government will change the requirements for when rough sleepers need to be accommodated during the current epidemic. This is being considered.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- The Queensgate Shopping Centre has taken the decision to close the Bus station because they consider the service to be non-essential. This has been challenged primarily on safety grounds in order to ensure people and particularly key workers, can safely access buses;
- A revised scheme of delegation is being drafted and the Planning Committee processes and protocols are being reviewed in order to seek to minimise delays on the determination of applications;

WORKFORCE UPDATE

No new updates

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- The financial impact in terms of lost income and additional costs in highways and transport is increasing, particularly as a result of less developer and utility company activity. These are being recorded and reported to finance.
- The cost of rough sleepers accommodation as required by Government guidance, continues to be significant, and is being monitored closely.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

No new updates

COMMUNICATIONS

- There is regular communications with local Members and residents in areas where rough sleepers are accommodated.

