

PCC COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Place and Economy
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REPORTING PERIOD:	Week ending 24 th April 2020

KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- Revised highway policies are now in force following transfer of face masks from Skanska to the PPE hub to support essential front line services. These latest changes permit temporary repairs to Category 1 defects, essentially potholes, as saw cutting out is no longer possible. The normal service will be resumed when face masks become available.
- Plans are being prepared for the re-opening of the Household Waste site, when Government says this is acceptable.
- The focus of the Highways service through the Highway Contract, is to put in place safe work practices in line with social distancing guidance to return operations back to Business as Usual as soon as possible. Given the nature of works, there will, however, be some tasks that can't restart until social distancing guidelines are relaxed.
- Supply chain issues remain a problem for highway works. Some companies are returning, but given the nature of the furlough scheme, with three week blocks, it will be a number of weeks until some of the larger companies are available again. This means it will take a while to return to business as usual.
- Bus services are now stabilised. Roughly 40% - 50% of commercial services are operating. 100% of contracted services are continuing.
- Aragon have been helping the NHS to deliver textiles to companies that are producing gowns and have had initial conversations about transporting non-COVID related patients to ease pressure on the NHS vehicles.
- The Park Inn has been secured as a further location to house rough sleepers and guests will be moving from the other hotels to the Park Inn this week.
- Volunteers from the re-deployment hub have been secured to provide services to guests at the Park Inn.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- Discussions are taking place within P and E and with hub coordinators so redeployed staff can be returned if necessary, particularly once recovery is underway, or to meet the demands in service.
- Government funding has picked up the shortfall in fare box revenue for bus companies but the challenge will be how to reintroduce services when income will continue to be insufficient once central government grants stop.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

No new issues

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- As a result of stopping the Bulky waste service there is a monthly average loss of income of £12,600.
- Recommencement of works may lead to extra costs, if mitigation measures on social distancing are needed. For example, extra site vehicles and welfare facilities will be needed.
- Costs will arise for the reopening of the HRC in order to provide support to the site operator, these will be set out in the re-opening plan this week.
- There will be a further significant financial impact as a result of securing the Park Inn and there are liabilities and cleaning costs that the operator is insisting on that will need to be addressed. Business case has been submitted.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- Significant work is taking place with Skanska to restart highway works. We are working with Skanska on a case by case basis, noting impact of staff redeployment, supply chain availability and the need for Covid-19 related safe working practices.

COMMUNICATIONS

- There have been positive communications from the BBC about the refuse crews working across the city and also the 'Thank You' message from Aragon staff to all Key Workers.
- Feedback has been received highlighting concerns around speeding activity. Dft are looking at a national level to see what communications should be put out or other action taken and they are considering lower speed limits.
- There are ongoing social media messages to remind residents of not overloading bins, that the HRC is closed, how to home compost and the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.