

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREA:	Place and Economy
REPORT AUTHOR:	Steve Cox/Graham Hughes
REPORTING PERIOD:	Week ending 23/5/2020

KEY ACTIVITY HEADLINES

- First tranche of reallocation of road space work was announced on 21st May. For Cambridge, the following were to be installed over the Bank Holiday weekend. This is the first part of a rolling programme of schemes:
 - Chesterton Road –From Elizabeth Way to junction with Trafalgar Road
 - Girton Road Cambridge into Cambridge Road Girton-Huntingdon Road to high Street
 - Cambridge Road Milton-From Country Park to High Street
 - Kings Hedges Road- From Milton Road to Arbury Road
- In Peterborough, the reallocation work is focussing on enhancing the Green Wheel as well as a range of localised measures including cycle line refresh, improved crossings and additional cycle parking;
- Work continues with the City and Districts to identify pedestrian pinch points and measures within the urban centres, e.g. Cambridge inner core, Hunts Town Centre, St Neots, Ely, March etc. to allow for social distancing. Measures will be in place by 1st June. This work is being led by the City Centre Recovery Task Force in Peterborough;
- Skanska have returned to cutting and sealing potholes as they have now secured appropriate PPE for their operatives;
- Outstanding highway faults in Cambridgeshire are down to 443 outstanding. This has now plateaued and is unlikely to reduce further as requests are also increasing. Potholes filled in Cambridgeshire this week are 1,366;
- Site visits have resumed to inform A14 local roads handover discussions;
- Some developer construction sites have recommenced this week with strict social distancing measures in place. Planning consultations, road adoption applications, land charge enquiries and highway status enquiries are close to pre-Covid 19 levels;
- All footway and carriageway schemes in Peterborough have now resumed and the teams are adhering to social distancing – this includes J18 and A605 Alwalton;
- In Peterborough, data shows that traffic levels are creeping up following the easing of lockdown restrictions. The Strategic Parkway route (Northern arm of Junction 3) has risen from around 40% of pre-pandemic levels up to roughly 60%;
- Parking enforcement and bus lane enforcement in Cambridge remains suspended – next review early June;
- Traffic management has been extended to the end of May for the Household Waste sites. Overall, the reopening continues to go well. In Cambridgeshire, there is a weekly review to determine if van and trailer permits can be allowed;
- DfT have announced continued funding to commercial bus operators to enable them to increase bus service frequencies. No details are available of what levels of service are required for the funding or the financial package in terms of amounts and timescales. Stagecoach are aiming to increase frequencies from 1st June, subject to details from DfT on the funding package;
- Aragon Direct Services continue to deliver Key services and have been supporting work on making Peterborough City Centre COVID safe as well as various council offices. Central Park has been well used and measures put in place have allowed Tennis to be played again, two toilets will be open in Central Park from Friday the 22nd with barriers and social distancing queueing measures in place. Once the toilets are open the Bowls green will also be opened but the Pavilion will remain shut;
- There was an incident in the Travelodge being used for the homeless on Wednesday night. This was dealt with swiftly;
- A further 8 guests in the homeless hotel have been moved onto new pathways. The number of occupied rooms continues to decline.

RISKS / CHALLENGES (AND MITIGATION)

- There is an increasing amount of work required in a very short time frame in response to recovery measures, for example from the reallocation of road space work, which is placing extreme pressure on staff;
- Staff resource is still significantly reduced, a plan is now in place with the Hub for some staff to return from redeployment;
- The reallocation of road space work is likely to have an impact on existing priorities e.g. LHIs;

WORKFORCE UPDATE

- Repatriation of staff has commenced and will see some staff returning over the next month or so. The return is phased and in some cases staff will still provide support to the hub as well as start picking up their normal day job;
- Aragon have had 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19. All associated staff are isolating and being tested;

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- Covid19 requirements are now starting to feed through additional costs to LHI's and Schemes;
- Agreement has almost been reached with Skanska on payments to keep their operations viable in the current crisis - this may impact costs and budgets;

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- Road Safety Education is seeing an increased work load, requests for updated travel plans and schools requesting activity sheets;
- Highway depots are undergoing COVID risk assessments and measures being put in place to ensure social distancing compliant. Only Skanska operatives working from the depots.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Press release issued 21st May regarding the first tranche of pop up road space reallocation schemes;
- In Peterborough, a message has been added to all Real Time Passenger Information displays asking people to maintain social distancing. Further signage is being obtained that will be offered to Parish Councils to install at rural bus stops and those not covered by RTPi.