

COVID-19 EMERGENCY PLANNING HIGHLIGHT REPORT

SERVICE AREAS:	Place and Economy
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REPORTING PERIOD:	19 th June 2020 to 3 rd July 2020

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

- Changes to Pavement license legislation has been introduced meaning that in Cambridgeshire, this will be run by the district councils under planning powers until Sept 2021. The Highways Authority will still be a consultee. There is no change in Peterborough as a Unitary Authority.
- The '1m+' guidance on social distancing has been reviewed by Public Health with regard to the Household Recycling Centres and their recommendation is to maintain the current arrangements. They also advise that the nature of the site use means we do not need to follow the requirement to record user contact details for potential use by NHS Track and Trace.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

- The list of Active Travel measures to provide temporary cycle and pedestrian infrastructure and for the reallocation of road space has been agreed. The total allocation from Government is £632k for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and increase of 12% on the original allocation reflecting the strength of the submission.
- These schemes need to be delivered within 8 weeks from receipt of funding confirmation which means the end of August. A wide range of schemes will commence introduction in Cambridgeshire from w/c 6th July. In Peterborough, the removal of an east bound lane to install a pop-up cycle lane took place overnight on Thursday 2nd July at Crescent Bridge.
- There have been 15 expressions of interest for the 'School Streets' to date within Cambridgeshire and 7 in Peterborough, as part of the Active Travel fund.
- In Peterborough, additional street lighting dimming. This has now been rolled out across approximately 90% of the city's street lights.
- In Peterborough, the Fengate Household Recycling Centre continues to remain busy, however as social distancing is being maintained there is reduced capacity at a time when demand appears to be rising. The public using the site are working well with requests from staff and traffic management, albeit with some users less than helpful when at peak times the access is closed temporarily to allow the site to continue to operate safely.
- The Council's recently adopted their Outbreak Control Plans. These set out the measures, including, Track and Trace, that will be followed to manage outbreaks of Covid 19. The intention is to reduce the spread when cases are detected and it requires individuals to self-isolate and notify of contacts if they test positive. This process has the potential to disrupt services such as highways if a significant number of staff or operatives within the Council or our supply chain are affected.
- In Peterborough, the teams have been working successfully to resettle rest centre residents and have now found new settled places for over 80 households. There are now 48 households remaining at the Park Inn, the only remaining rest centre in use. There are around 17 rough sleepers still identified as being out on the streets. The intention is to try and bring as many of them in as possible to help resettle them as well.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY

- Support and leadership of the City Centre Team working with restaurants and pubs ensured the necessary measures were in place for the safe reopening of the hospitality sector on 4th July.
- Teams are increasingly returning to Business As Usual – teams across P and E are now undertaking site visits, where safe to do so and in accordance with social distancing.
- All Cambridge Parking Enforcement and Bus Lane enforcement has re-commenced and Mill Road bus gate temporary measure installed.
- In Cambridge, Park and Ride staff have returned to work at the sites as services increase – there is now a 10 minute frequency;
- Traffic flows continue to increase but not back up to pre Covid levels (between 70-80%) and AM peak is not increasing as fast with traffic flow more balanced across the day as people work more flexibly and children have not yet fully returned to schools.

- The City Centre & Market Towns recovery measures were all implemented in time for shops re-opening on 15th June.
- Risk assessments have been undertaken at all highway depots to allow return to work where necessary.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Risk assessments for School Streets schemes started 02/07/2020
- In Peterborough, traffic management at the HRCs is now under the control of site operator FCC after the scheme was established with the assistance of specialists under the Skanska highways framework contract.
- In Cambridgeshire, the following changes have been made to the HRC's:
 - A booking system has been introduced for the HRCs at Thriplow, Alconbury and Bluntisham and from w/c 29th June, this was extended to Milton and St Neots
 - All general traffic management across the HRCs has been removed except at Thriplow – no waiting signs are in place, Milton and Witchford – a single operative is at each to monitor queues

NEW FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- Loss of tables and chairs license income in Cambridgeshire will mean a loss of £50k per annum.
- Advanced funding of £1m for the Towns Fund has been announced for Peterborough for early delivery of investment plan measures in 2020/21.

WORKFORCE CHANGES

- Most staff have now returned from the redeployment hub and are now working in their service areas.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Additional information has been sent to schools on school streets proposals. Specific engagement with schools expressing an interest in order to progress is taking place.
- In Cambridgeshire, a new inbox has been created for temporary schemes: CovidTransportSchemes@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.
- There has been a lot of media activity around the parking enforcement re-start in Cambridgeshire to ensure residents and visitors are aware of the restrictions.
- In both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, there has been a lot of media activity around the Active travel measures promoting the schemes and the reasoning behind them.
- Communication around the re-opening of the hospitality sector took place in Peterborough to ensure as many people as possible were able to visit and safely enjoy restaurants, pubs and cafes.