

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT – COVID-19 AND KEY SERVICE UPDATES

SERVICE AREAS:	Place & Economy
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council

Part 1 - COVID-19

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

- Covid related planning permitted development rights have been variously extended. The team is assessing the impact.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

- Collection and Disposal arrangements have been agreed in principle for waste from mass testing sites and schools lateral flow testing arrangements.
- PCC officers are providing planning and building control support and guidance with regard to additional mortuary provision, funeral home and chemist provision in the city.
- In Cambridge, Park & Ride services have been put on hold from 24th January. Busway services continue to operate.
- The anticipated spike in the housing market as the end of the “stamp duty holiday” approaches. This is likely to exacerbate the already unprecedented demands upon the Searches and Development management teams across CCC and PCC.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

- Highways teams in CCC and PCC were working closely with a range of vaccination centres to ensure there is appropriate traffic management and public areas are gritted in cold weather.
- PCC Planning service providing input to the café culture initiative.
- In CCC, traffic and the HRCs continue to be manageable without the need for additional traffic marshals

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- In PCC, the decision has been taken to delay the move from the Rough Sleeper Rest Centre to Bushfield Court as negotiations are ongoing with owners.
- With the new lockdown, Dodson House is open for essential use only when the task is unable to be completed from home. Staff have to book a ticket through Eventbrite prior to accessing the building and this information will be used for track and trace information should it be needed. The numbers using it are between 1-6 people per day compared with the normal 65 desk capacity. This is essential to allow us to deliver certain key functions.

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

- None

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

- CCC Traffic Management have redeployed 1 officer to the Hub to help with DBS checking for volunteers and CCC Highway Maintenance have redeployed 1 officer.
- The backlog of Housing Register applications has accumulated due to long term sickness absence in the processing team. Additional resource is being recruited to backfill
- There are increasing difficulties for staff working from home as the lockdown continues, These mainly relate to mental health and wellbeing and managers are working closely with staff using the available support materials.
- In PCC, the backlog of planning applications awaiting validation has reduced from 80 to 40 but Development Management caseloads remain high.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Teams have assisted with signage etc. to ensure that vaccination centres are available and accessible.

Part 2 – BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

KEY SERVICE UPDATES – INTERNAL / EXTERNAL

CCC	PCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the novation of the Skanska Highways contract is on track for completion on 1st April. • The Robin Hood traffic signal project in Cambridge commenced 18th January. After a request by local councillors a weekly progress report is being sent to 24 stakeholders/groups, updating them on work completed the previous week and work planned for the next, being well received. • The HGV Member working group has had its first meeting and agreed terms of reference. • LHI working groups are progressing with two extra dates added, with a review to go to March H&T Committee. • 4,500 dwellings approved at Waterbeach by Cambridge/SCDC planning committee. First phase of 800 dwellings - Conditional on pre occupation delivery of railway station, with £17m strategic transport funding, a financial review mechanism for transport and associated education provision. • 3,500 dwellings Bourn Airfield application scheduled for Cambridge/SCDC planning committee on 19 Feb with positive officer recommendation. • Highways England A428 Caxton Gibbet to Black Cat Project Development Consent Order now due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by the end of February 2021. • There are now over 750 reports received by the team on flooding events over the Christmas period, mainly in HDC and FDC, but some in SCDC. We have started information gathering as part of our statutory investigative role, receiving detailed submissions from some parishes. We have also undertaken a series of community discussion groups where our reporting is showing significant surface water impacts on properties. The Cambs and P'boro Floods and Water partnership (CPFLoW) held an extraordinary meeting to start the sharing of findings – another meeting is planned for early March. Offices have also attended a meeting called by Steve Barclay MP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the novation of the Skanska Highways contract is on track for completion on 1st April. • The Heads of Terms for the Towns Fund was signed by Minister on the 13th January. All 10 projects for £22.9m were recommended by the Towns Fund Board for submission on the 22nd January to MHCLG. Up to 12 months is allowed to produce business cases for the individual projects before funding being received. • The new Assistant Director for Housing, Michael Kelleher started on 01 February 2021. • The new Assistant Director Growth & Regeneration, Emma Gee will start 08 March 2021. • The Techno-Economic Study for the Heat Network in Peterborough has been completed and the outputs are being finalised. The Detailed Project The development stage has now commenced as part of the PIRI programme. EV and Electrification vectors are progressing well and the Stage Gate Review with Innovate UK has been undertaken with positive feedback. • The NWG development is progressing with Land Assembly. The draft Acquisition Strategy has been prepared and the work programme is being developed. • An analysis report is due in February regarding HMO properties in Peterborough and the impacts they may have. This will inform whether planning controls should be introduced and in which areas in the city. • Much work is going into the preparation of the application for phase 2 of the university which is expected in February • The Cambs and P'boro Floods and Water partnership (CPFLoW) held an extraordinary meeting to start the sharing of findings in relation to the Christmas flooding. • Work is progressing well to allow for the transfer of the Passenger Transport service to the Combined Authority on the 1st April.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Investment case for Swaffham Prior Community Heat Network was approved at E+S Committee in January 2021. This approval allows the project to apply for Renewable Heat Incentive from Ofgem and apply for additional heat Network Investment Project funding. Work is progressing well to allow for the transfer of the Passenger Transport service to the Combined Authority on the 1st April. 	
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FINANCIAL ISSUES

CCC	PCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The announcement of the highways maintenance capital funding from Department for Transport is still awaited. Programme planning for 2021/22 is continuing but the DfT are being pushed to make the announcement as soon as possible. Amey suffered an IT security incident in December that they continue to recover from. This is affecting volume reporting difficult, but it is expected that all information will eventually be available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The announcement of the highways maintenance capital funding from Department for Transport is still awaited. Programme planning for 2021/22 is continuing but the DfT are being pushed to make the announcement as soon as possible.

PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES

CCC	PCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been a number of busy weeks for the winter service with snow falling in parts of the County. Salt stocks are good with deliveries taking place the first week of February 2021. Two additional gulley cleaning machines have been secured up to the end of March to aid with the recovery following the recent flooding across the county. Key areas to target have been identified and agreed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been a number of busy weeks for the winter service but performance has been good and salt stock remain good. Development Management continues to meet Government set performance targets.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS

CCC	PCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without clarity on the Highway Maintenance Capital Allocation soon, programme planning for the new financial year will become difficult. Energy mapping and a commercial framework have been developed to inform how to plan for and deliver infrastructure and projects to achieve 2050 net zero. A Cambridgeshire Decarbonisation Fund research paper was taken to E&S Committee and it was approved to scope this Fund in more detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without clarity on the Highway Maintenance Capital Allocation soon, programme planning for the new financial year will become difficult. The Government consultation on proposed revisions to the national planning policy framework which relate in the main to advancing design quality in new development

POSITIVE NEWS STORIES

CCC	PCC

- Trumpington Park and Ride Project won the Environmental Sustainability in the Highways Sector Award in the Highways Awards.
- A locally developed scheme to provide Digital Technology Grants for businesses in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been approved and will launch this month. Using ERDF and CPCA funds this will support SMEs to make productive use of digital technologies to grow their businesses in response to the changing economic environment
- The Historic Environment Team have been awarded a grant by Highways England to produce interpretation boards and circular walking/cycling routes around the updated NMU routes surrounding the A14.
- The Historic Environment Team have been successful in a bid to MHCLG for funding to create a register of 'locally listed' buildings. The bid was on behalf of CCC and all five district conservation teams.
- The Flood Risk Team have successfully submitted an Expression of Interest to the DEFRA Innovation Fund for flood risk, based on the Fens. We are the lead bidder. We are also a partner in a second bid for a project based on the OxCam corridor from Milton Keynes to here.
- A total of £3.53million Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant has been secured for Cambridgeshire buildings to take them off fossil fuels onto low carbon heating.

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- Work has started on the waterproofing of the overbridges at J18.
- Planning permission has been granted for 14,500 sq. m of B8 floor space at Altwalton
- Planning permission has been granted for a solar farm capable to powering 700 dwellings
- Planning permission has been granted for a section of highway at Hampton Leys which will open up 3 development cells for residential development