

CCC 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 frontline services. These latest changes permit temporary repairs to Category 1 defects, essentially potholes, as saw cutting out is no longer possible. The CCC web site was amended on 24th April to reflect the above changes. The normal service will be resumed as soon as face masks become available.
- Plans are being prepared for the re-opening of the Household Waste sites, when Government says this is acceptable. The highway service has been advising the Waste team on Traffic Management for the reopening to ensure customer and staff safety. Skanska will be supporting this.
- A further 500 customer reports were dealt with by the Local Highway Officers over the week. Outstanding reports are now under 1,000 showing good use of the lockdown reduced traffic volumes.
- 1,655 Potholes were repaired in the week ending 17 April.
- 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. A notice to that effect has been issued to Skanska and by early next week, a list of all projects that are operating or re-starting will be available. 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.
- 56 staff across P&E are now redeployed to support essential front line services. The number fluctuates week to week depending on need:
 - 23 are Highways;
 - 21 are Infrastructure and Growth;
 - 9 are Environment and Commercial Services;
 - 1 is Connecting Cambridgeshire;
 - 2 are passenger transport
- There has been a safety drive through on the A14 Local Access Road between Swavesey and Bar Hill before this is transferred to CCC. The A14 programme and CCC work with Highways England has been unaffected by the current lockdown.
- Due to the redeployment of team members, the monitoring hours for the Integrated Highways Management Centre have been reduced to 08:30-17:30 Monday to Friday, (usually 7am-7pm).
- Bus services are now stabilised. Roughly 40% - 50% of commercial services are operating. 100% of contracted services are continuing.

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, to help with restarting works 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.
- The potential for delays in receiving s106 payments due to stalled sites and reduced house sales is an issue and is being monitored.

WORKFORCE UPDATE

No new issues

FINANCIAL IMPACT (increase in costs / reduction in income)

- 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.

RECOVERY ACTIVITY (plans being considered / future steps)

- Significant work is taking place with Skanska to restart highway works. Approximately 30% of schemes are back up and running, and more will follow. 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.
- Resurfacing programme work is being brought forward and is currently being programmed with Eurovia the supplier, having returned from furlough – there is a minimum 6 week lead in time.
- A working group has been set up to look at management of the highway network when lockdown ends, assuming that social distancing will remain in place. Particularly, identification of pinch points on the network and the impact of the retail sector managing customer access resulting in queuing on the highway.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Feedback has been received highlighting concerns around speeding activity. Dft are looking at it at a national level to see what communications should be put out or other action taken and they are considering lower speed limits.
- A communication plan is being developed to publicise mobile operators' arrangements to maintain connections for vulnerable customers and enable free access to certain websites. The campaign will include internal comms to ensure that staff/services are aware (especially call handlers talking to shielded residents) and also link with external groups/partners/channels in order to disseminate the messages as extensively as possible amongst hard to reach groups.