

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT REPORT – COVID-19 AND KEY SERVICE UPDATES

SERVICE AREAS:	BID Directorate (Business Intelligence, Transformation, Commercial, Impact and Recovery)
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REPORTING PERIOD:	February/March 2021
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council

Part 1 - COVID-19

NEW GUIDANCE AND IMPACT

The Government published a health and social care white paper which contains important implications for councils with adult social care responsibilities which we are working through. Many of the proposed policy points (around data collection and sharing especially) arise from lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITY

In February and March Business Intelligence (BI) supported with identifying carers known to local authorities, voluntary organisations, and health services, and collating information so it can be flagged in GP systems and people prioritised for vaccination.

RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

We continue to ensure that staff who carry out statutory and front facing work that needs to be done from a building are able to do so safely. We are also working with HR and H&S colleagues to plan how additional staff can begin to safely return to buildings in line with the timescales in the government's roadmap. This work will be informed by the recent 'Pulse' survey which focused on how we have all worked and communicated during the pandemic and how we can 'blend' this into our future ways of working.

The BI team contributed to the work to prepare for a visit from Cabinet Office to discuss support to bring high COVID-19 case rates down in Peterborough and Fenland.

The BI team supported the CCG with defining cohorts of vulnerable people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (such as homeless people, gypsy and travellers, refugees, victims of domestic abuse) who were prioritised for vaccinations and were invited to present our methodology to CCGs across the region, in recognition of the high quality we delivered.

DECISIONS MADE SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

Q4 performance reporting will be returning to normal patterns in service committees in May-July. All service committees will be supported to review performance indicators as part of normal annual cycle.

NEW COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD

No updates.

WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

All staff continue to be supported by their manager and the BID Management Team to balance individual work and home life demands during this period, including those with caring responsibilities and health requirements.

COMMUNICATIONS

No updates.

Part 2 – BUSINESS AS USUAL ACTIVITY

KEY SERVICE UPDATES – INTERNAL / EXTERNAL

Cambs 2020 Programme - CCC only

The formal staff consultation to consider the impact of the New Shire Hall move was completed on 11 March. Engagement has been carried out virtually due to Covid restrictions and has proved successful, and high attendance was seen from staff to find out further details about the site/process and to raise questions. Due to restrictions being slightly eased, it has been possible to enable staff to come on site at Shire Hall to review, reduce and pack their team storage in advance of the move, avoiding the need for fully serviced moves (and increased costs). This is a managed process with controlled numbers of staff in the building at a time to ensure the safety of staff.

Investments - CCC only

A proposal to invest £22m into infrastructure funds using Treasury Management powers is to be brought to Commercial and Investments Committee on 19 March. Due diligence has been completed and three funds are being recommended for investment to gain returns in the region of 4-5% annually.

Census 2021

21 March is Census day. It is important that we get the highest possible completion rates in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We are working with all local authorities in the area, and the ONS, to promote the Census to communities, using community engagement and communications. People should receive a code now and can request a paper copy of the form if they wish; there is a phone line for assisted completion also. After Census day ONS field officers will be following up and we have approximately 6 weeks to complete. It is crucial because much of the funding that the public sector receives in local areas is dependent on population factors.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

No updates.

PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES AND CHALLENGES

No updates.

UPCOMING ISSUES & HORIZON SCANNING AREAS

No updates.

POSITIVE NEWS STORIES

Commercial - CCC only

The 'Cambridgeshire Pound' is a gamified e-learning modular programme to give a basic business/commercial knowledge to all staff and has been launched across CCC. An external version 'The Council Pound' is being actively marketed with other local authorities nationally in the hope for sales to be achieved to contribute towards an annual commercial surplus income of £200k. Luton Borough Council has already received their licensed copy and two other borough authorities are reviewing the demo version within just three days of soft launch.