

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 18 March 2020

Report by: Director of Environment & Infrastructure

Heading: Operational Performance Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of key service activities since the last report to the Policy Board in January 2020 and provides an operational performance update on the services and key projects delivered during this period.
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2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Approves the operational performance updates detailed within this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 Environment & Infrastructure provides essential services to every household in Renfrewshire and works in partnership with the local community, other services and Community Planning Partners to deliver key Council priorities and initiatives. A progress update on the main projects and activities delivered by the services within Environment & Infrastructure in respect of the areas of activity delegated to this Policy Board, together with key performance indicators is detailed below.

Operational Updates

4. Roads and StreetScene Services

Roads Maintenance

- 4.1 The Capital programme for 2020/21 is currently being developed. A series of engagement sessions were held with key stakeholders including Elected Members, other Council Services and bus operators. The programme shall be published in the Information Bulletin in May.

- 4.2 As part of the development of the Capital Investment programme 2020/21, an Assets and Infrastructure community investment fund will be established. An allocation of money will be set aside for each Local Partnership area to vote on priority infrastructure investments in their area. A range of options will be provided to each area with the community deciding how this money is spent.



- 4.3 The new approach to patching and pothole repairs commenced in Johnstone in February 2020 covering 7,500 square metres of road. The programme will continue throughout 2020 with a focus within the Villages. This approach which has also been completed in Inchinnan, Bishopton and Renfrew (Total of 7,573 square metres) involves grouping together all recorded potholes across an area and carrying out permanent patches to protect the road asset.

Winter Maintenance Plan

- 4.4 The Service's Winter Maintenance Plan continues to be in operation until the end of April for preventative and reactive activities happening 24/7 to keep Renfrewshire's roads and footpaths network safe and accessible. During February 2020, Renfrewshire experienced the highest recorded rainfall in decades culminating on Friday 20th February with Renfrewshire Council receiving flooding reports in over 100 locations across Renfrewshire. Teams from Roads, StreetScene and Building Services worked day and night over that weekend to clear flooded roads and provide assistance, including delivering 22 pallets of sandbags, to residents and businesses in affected areas.

StreetScene Services

- 4.5 StreetScene Services continues to work in partnership with Invest in Renfrewshire to provide opportunities for trainees to develop skills. Three trainees are currently working and building employability skills with the Environment and Place team with further trainees being identified who are interested in StreetScene activities. Teams have been tackling areas of heavy weed growth in Elderslie, Erskine and Johnstone. The team are then moving into Glenburn and Foxbar areas.

- 4.6 A new approach to removing weed growth and stubborn detritus from the footways adjacent to arterial roads has focused on Barochan Road, Bridge of Weir Road, Beith Road and Grahamston Road improving user safety and environmental appearance.
- 4.7 Streetscene Services has also focussed activity in the Renfrew and Braehead area to service and/or replace road assets including bollards, pedestrian guardrails and bins which have become damaged or subjected to graffiti. This work enhances these assets and improves road safety and the look within the local community. This activity will be a rolling programme over the coming year.
- 4.8 A new larger style of litter bin that can be serviced by refuse collection vehicles is being piloted in Lochwinnoch with a view to expanding this across Renfrewshire.
- 4.9 The Memorial Safety programme is underway within Renfrewshire Cemeteries with site zoning and risk assessment completed in all Cemeteries and Churchyard burial grounds. Initial training has been delivered to staff and engagement has taken place with specialist contractors for larger headstones to review the next steps in the programme. Memorial inspections commenced in the old part of Lochwinnoch Cemetery during March 2020. Thereafter, our inspection team will move onto Hawkhead Cemetery.

Respectful Funerals

- 4.10 In March 2018 the Council committed to help alleviate funeral poverty. This included the removal of burial and registration charges for children under the age of 16 years. In line with the Scottish Government's guidance, Renfrewshire Council agreed to extend this to cover under 18 years of age in August 2018. The interments for stillbirths and pregnancy losses are specifically excluded by the guidance. However, Renfrewshire Council continues to provide these types of funerals free of charge within the Baby Garden at Hawkhead Cemetery. The Council continues to work closely with local funeral directors to provide a 'Respectful Funeral Service', which enables families to access a tailored funeral package that is dignified, professional and affordable.

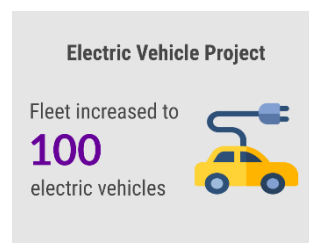
5. Fleet & Social Transport Services

Vehicle Replacement Programme

- 5.1 The Vehicle Replacement Programme 2019/20 has been fully committed achieving total budget spend with all 39 vehicles now in operational service. Fleet Services have worked closely through engagement sessions with drivers and service managers who detailed the service requirement and allowed appropriate planning of the procurement for vehicles to suit their operational requirements, driver safety and comfort aligned to the most economical and climate friendly vehicles on the market.
- 5.2 In addition, 71 end of economic life vehicles have been removed from the Council fleet and replaced by only 34 new low emission vehicles.

Electric Vehicles

- 5.3 Renfrewshire Council will take delivery of 12 electric vehicles in March taking the number of electric vehicles in the Council Fleet to 100. These zero emission vehicles will be used by Care at Home teams who support vulnerable people in our communities.



Sustainable Travel Planning

- 5.6 The Sustainable Travel Planning project now has approximately 300 regular pool car and bicycle users from within Renfrewshire House utilising the current pool fleet largely made up of electric vehicles and significantly reducing carbon emissions.

6. Waste Services

6.1 Contamination Initiative

Waste contamination continues to be an issue in Renfrewshire, specifically with the material presented in blue bins. The service has completed the first phase of our contamination initiative which focussed on paper and card recycling streams and ensuring all blue bins had the appropriate stickers on them advising of the correct recycling material for that bin. The next phase commenced in February and involved crews identifying and tagging contaminated blue bins for residents to remove the contaminated items. Crews have recorded the bins that are contaminated, and the service will use this data to identify where and why contamination is occurring and in which areas to focus our resources. The service will continue to support residents to ensure they are able to participate in recycling.

Commercial Waste

- 6.2 The service is reviewing the provision of commercial waste and recycling services to businesses and other non-domestic customers across Renfrewshire. Waste Services are engaging with customers to review their collection requirements and bin infrastructure to ensure we are able to provide a sustainable service that meets the needs of our customers, our legislative requirements and recycling targets. A full survey of all customer requirements and collection arrangements is taking place through March 2020.

Partnership Working

- 6.3 Waste Services continue to work collaboratively with other council services to share our knowledge and resources to achieve better outcomes for our communities. Successful recent examples include working with Housing Services and Environmental Health to identify and address estate management and environmental issues including historic difficulties increasing participation in recycling.

Zero Waste Scotland Review

- 6.4 Following service changes in December 2018, Waste Services and Zero Waste Scotland are reviewing the new waste collection service being delivered which includes a survey of all non-standard properties across Renfrewshire to ensure the

correct infrastructure is in place and all residents can participate fully in the service. The survey will be carried out in Spring 2020 and will also include a review of our food and garden waste collection routes and infrastructure.

- 6.5 For the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 Renfrewshire's recycling rate was 53%.

7. Transportation and Infrastructure Service

The National Transport Strategy (NTS2)

- 7.1 The Scottish Government published its National Transport Strategy in February 2020. The strategy sets out the ambitions and visions for the transport system over the next 20 years that protects the climate and improves lives. The strategy has four priorities; to reduce inequalities, take climate action, help deliver inclusive economic growth and improve our health and wellbeing. It seeks to ensure transport helps reach the government's target of net-zero emissions by 2045, makes travel accessible to all by reversing dependence on the private car and promoting more sustainable and mass-transit modes, reduces congestion using spatial planning to speed up business and delivery trips and provides a safe and secure network which prioritises active travel modes to enable a healthy and fit nation. The strategy also looks at a high level at the transport governance arrangements, proposing a regional model through a place-based approach.

Bus Stop Improvements

- 7.2 A programme of bus stop improvement works continues in partnership with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport. The programme, to encourage greater bus patronage, includes hard standings, high access kerb treatments and/or new bus shelters at Inchinnan Business Park, Inchinnan Village, Houston; Bishopton Kilbarchan and Howwood.

Bus Real-time Information Displays, Paisley to Johnstone Corridor

- 7.3 The preparatory work for sixteen bus real time information displays has been completed. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's contractor will erect and energise these displays in Paisley to Johnstone corridor by the end of March 2020.

Pedestrian Crossings – Bridge of Weir Road, Linwood

- 7.4 At the request of local residents two zebra crossings on speed tables are nearing completion. The crossings will have the dual effect of slowing vehicles and helping pedestrians cross the road at the locations of greatest demand.

Junction Improvement – Junction of Haining Road and Dean Park Road

- 7.5 The junction has been realigned after a review of repeated minor accidents caused by speeding and cutting the corner at this junction, a central island installed and speed tables located on Dean Park Road. These measures are designed to curb speeds, promote the correct use of this junction and reduce accidents.

Junction of Kelburn Oval and Glasgow Road

- 7.6 Consultation on the proposed raised table pedestrian crossing is underway in time for implementation during spring 2020, pending the outcome of the consultation.

Urban Traffic Control System Renewal

- 7.7 The renewal of the Council's urban traffic control system, which manages the operation of the busiest of our traffic signal junctions, has been awarded. Surveys of all the Council's equipment are now complete and the installation of new digital communications equipment is underway removing the analogue system.

Architectural Lighting Improvements – Renfrew and Johnstone Town Centres

- 7.8 As part of the Scottish Government's Town Centre Capital Funding programme, Transportation and Infrastructure have been working in partnership with Council's regeneration team to deliver architectural lighting improvements in Renfrew and Johnstone. The lighting contracts have been awarded with works scheduled to start in Spring 2020 for Renfrew Town Hall, White Cart Bascule Bridge, Bandstand, War Memorial and trees in Houston Square plus CCTV and Lighting improvements in Robertson Park, Renfrew.

ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS



LED Street Lighting

- 7.9 Renfrewshire's Street Lighting Investment Strategy has been substantially completed, with 96% of Renfrewshire's 30,756 street lights converted to LED Lanterns. The service have now commenced a concrete column replacement contract, through which, 55 concrete lighting columns and their associated sodium lanterns will be replaced with aluminium columns with modern LED equivalent by Autumn 2020. These columns were not in scope of the original contract as they were located in private gardens or in areas that would require special access arrangements.

8. Environment and Place, Team Up to Clean Up

- 8.1 In March, Team Up to Clean Up caddy owners had stock increased with the addition of a snow shovel, grit spreader and salt. 14 of each have been issued to encourage caddy holders, and members of communities, to be pro-active in clearing snow and gritting footpaths around their area.
- 8.2 70 Team Up to Clean Up litter picks took place across the winter period in Renfrewshire. 278 volunteers took part between October and January with a large increase in sole litterpickers being gifted kit to clean up their neighbourhoods. An unprecedented number of litterpicks were recorded in January as a result of this. The increase in activity saw 300 bags of litter removed from Renfrewshire communities by volunteers.

9. Service Developments

Cemeteries Investment

- 9.1 Works relating to the £1 million cemeteries investment have been completed in Hawkhead, Bishopton, Abbey, Houston, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch, Broomward and Arkleston. The proposed works in Inchinnan Cemetery will include the construction of a new road and path within the cemetery with the formation of a new entrance / exit and resurfacing works to the existing internal road.

Parks Investment Project

- 9.2 £250,000 has been invested in five community parks across Renfrewshire to improve infrastructure and play equipment. The infrastructure improvements have been delivered in four parks with play equipment installed in two parks at Houston Road, Bridge of Weir and Howwood Public Park with on-going works in three parks.

Cleaning of Statues and Monuments

- 9.3 Work relating to the cleaning of Statues and Monuments in Dunn Square Paisley has started with statues of Queen Victoria and Dr Dunn's Memorial cleaned and protective coated. Statues of Sir Peter Coats and Thomas Coats will be the next phase of this cleaning programme during Spring 2020.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – None
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community & Council Planning** –

Our Renfrewshire is thriving / Reshaping our place, our economy and our future - the service is actively involved in the Invest in Renfrewshire scheme and investing in road network to support and facilitate economic growth.

Creating a sustainable Renfrewshire for all to enjoy - working in partnership with the community to deliver a cleaner Renfrewshire. Promoting and encouraging waste minimisation through reducing, reusing and recycling. Reducing carbon emissions, through LED streetlights and electric and low emission vehicles within the council fleet.

Our Renfrewshire is well - the services encourages use of our parks and open spaces to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

4. **Legal** – None.
5. **Property/Assets** – The Council's roads, fleet and open space infrastructure is maintained and enhanced.

6. **Information Technology** – None.
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website
8. **Health & Safety** – None.
9. **Procurement** – None.
10. **Risk** – None.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – The performance outlined within the report will continue to contribute to positive climate change.

List of Background Papers: None

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