

To: Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board

On: 24 March 2021

Report by: Director of Environment & Infrastructure and
Director of Communities and Housing

Heading: Operational Performance Report

1. Summary

- 1.1 Following on from the Service Update report presented to this board on 27 January 2021, this report provides a further operational performance update to the Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on key areas within the Board's remit. It also outlines the priorities through to Summer 2021, highlighting key areas of focus and plans for next steps to support the Council's recovery plans. Whilst developing these plans, the local and national position remains fluid and services will remain flexible and able to respond quickly in relation to changes in restrictions and local outbreaks as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 Operational Services continue as normal and are working within Covid-19 restrictions. All required safety measures are in place and are well established.
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2. Recommendations

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

- 2.1 Approves the content of this report; and
- 2.2 Approves the suspension of car parking charges in the Council owned Car Parks of Paisley Town Centre until the end of May 2021 as set out in paragraph 4.4 of this report.
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3. Background

- 3.1 In the previous service update reported to Infrastructure, Land and Environment Policy Board on 27 January 2021, the Council's response to the coronavirus pandemic from March 2020 to January 2021 was outlined – our partnership approach, our move to protect and support our employees and communities, particularly vulnerable people across the area. Across services, and with our partners, the Council continues to support our communities and develop our operational and policy response both now and as we continue to move through the recovery route map.
- 3.2 Operational Services continue to operate within Covid-19 restrictions, delivering services in most instances to levels similar to those experienced by services in a pre covid environment. All required safety measures are in place and well established. Employees across the Council continue to show great commitment and resilience during this time delivering essential services, volunteering to support frontline services and helping others to remain safe at home.
- 3.3 Council services continue to operate flexibly in order to respond to whatever challenges the pandemic brings for local communities but there is also a continuing focus on the recovery position and the opportunities to 'build back better'.
- 3.4 This report gives a broad overview of the key areas of service delivery, the particular areas of focus now and in the near future, and any specific risks and priorities of relevance to this Policy Board.

4. Updates for Infrastructure Land and Environment Policy Board

Refuse Collection Services

- 4.1. The service continues to deliver all essential frontline collection services including collections for residual waste, recycling, special uplifts, food and garden waste and commercial collections.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

- 4.2. The Welfare Unit at four of the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres are being replaced with upgraded facilities. The works began on Monday 1st February at Linwood and continue through to the middle of June 2021. During the project, there is a requirement to close each site for a few days, the closures will be posted on Social Media and the Council Website and appropriate traffic management and signage displayed outside the sites to re-direct customers to another facility.

Roads, Fleet and Social Transport

- 4.3. The Roads Capital investment programme for 2021/22 is currently being developed. The programme will be shared with Elected Members once the programme is finalised and prior to commencement in April.

Town Centre Car Parking

- 4.4. In March 2020 when Scotland entered into lockdown, Council owned car parking charges were suspended to support key workers to undertake their duties. As the vast majority of Scotland is currently under further lockdown restrictions the Environment and Infrastructure Board of 27 January 2021 approved the suspension of car parking charges in the Council owned Car Parks of Paisley Town Centre until the end of March 2021. Due to the continued restrictions it is proposed to extend this to the end of May 2021. Normal traffic restrictions e.g. double yellow lines continue to apply.
- 4.5. The segregated shared cycle way project from Bishopton to Glasgow Airport is substantially complete with the section from M8 Junction 29A to the Red Smiddy Roundabout scheduled to be completed by end of March 2021. This is an important element in the Council's cycling strategy network and connection to the airport and investment area.
- 4.6. The refurbishment works of the White Cart footbridge at Abercorn Street in Paisley commenced in January and steelwork cleaning has been completed. The bridge is scheduled to reopen in May 2021. This will create an important connection to the cycle way between Paisley and Renfrew.
- 4.7. The reshaping of the signal junction at Renfrew Road and Netherhill Road Paisley to provide a right turn lane is due to start construction at the end of March with works expected to be completed by end of May.

SPT Capital Investment

- 4.8. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) capital programme for 2021/2022 has been approved by SPT and covers projects across the 12 local authorities in the Strathclyde Area. The range of Renfrewshire projects are designed to improve infrastructure and encourage more active travel:
- Design for a potential park and ride at Hawkhead Rail Station on existing land;
 - Linburn Road Erskine bus turning loop;
 - Pedestrian Crossing installations to address concerns of road safety, speeding and crossing locations at or around schools and key junctions in towns and villages;
 - Bus corridor improvements to existing infrastructure enabling access to buses and upgrading traffic signal; and
 - Traffic Management improvements for the continued development of the Councils Urban Traffic Control system and bus priority measures by upgrading key junctions with the SCOOT system which automatically adjusts the traffic signal timings to real time traffic conditions.

Spaces for People – Temporary Cycle Routes (Bridge of Weir to Gryffe High and Howwood to Paisley)

- 4.9. As a result of the feedback provided to the consultation, a staged approach to the Bridge of Weir to Gryffe High School cycle lane will be implemented from April 2021 with the route from Gryffe High School to the entrance of Houston Road Park in Bridge of Weir. This will allow officers to review usage of the cycle route prior to considering extending the route further into the residential area. The Howwood to Paisley route has been shaped by engagement with the local community and amendments to the design have been made to retain parking at Elderslie Post Office and two lanes eastbound on Main Road Elderslie. Officers are currently working on the implementation plan and timescales to share with the local Community and Elected Members.

4.10. Architectural Lighting Improvements

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, Johnstone and Paisley. The lighting works for Renfrew Town Hall, Thomas Shanks Park and Robertson Park have been completed in March 2021. Overhead canopy lighting will be installed in Shuttle Street Paisley during May and June 2021 to complement public realm improvements in the area.

4.11. On-Street Residential Electric Vehicle Chargepoints

Environment & Infrastructure were successful in their application to the UK Department of Transport On-street Residential Electric Chargepoint scheme. By installing chargepoints on-street, residents without off-street parking can enjoy the convenience of charging their plug-in electric vehicles near their home. As more residents use electric vehicles, communities will benefit from improved air quality and lower their carbon footprint. Grant funding of £48,460 will allow Electric Vehicle charging hubs to be installed in Glenburn Community Centre, Kirklandneuk Community Centre in Renfrew and Falcon Day Centre in Ferguslie during Summer 2021. During 2020, there were construction delays to four planned EV charging sites due to COVID restrictions, these works will be completed by July 2021 at Howwood Village Hall, Elderslie Village Hall, Johnstone Sports Centre, and ON-X Sports Centre Linwood.

StreetScene Services and Team Up to Clean Up

- 4.12. StreetScene Services has progressed the Headstones and Memorial Safety programme with the zoning of all Renfrewshire Cemeteries and working through the inspection of all zone 1 (high priority) headstones in Hawkhead cemetery and completed Lochwinnoch Cemetery. Those headstones inspected and found to be unsafe have been made safe and tagged for the lair owners to make contact with the cemetery office to arrange a more permanent repair made.
- 4.13. Following consultation with communities in August and September 2020, Environment & Infrastructure agreed to create 33 biodiversity areas over a 3-year period starting from 2021. Streetscene Services continue to deliver all essential services during the Covid pandemic, however, as the preparation works for these

biodiversity areas as well as wildflower and tree planting proposals are required over the winter period and fall into the category of non-essential works the service is required to delay the implementation of these biodiversity areas, wildflower and tree planting proposals by a year, these will now commence in 2022. Further site investigations and preparation works will be undertaken during 2021 to support the planned roll out in 2022.

- 4.14. StreetScene Services have completed the seasonal staff recruitment sessions to support the grass cutting programme across our communities. The Grass cutting season commences on 5th April. However, and similar to last year, StreetScene Services will be unable to undertake grass cutting in private gardens during 2021.
- 4.15. **COVID community testing for Underwood Road and Renfrewshire House staff**
As part of a proposal to the Scottish Government, via Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, community testing of staff at Underwood Road and Renfrewshire House was agreed. The distribution and return of 1500 PCR Home Test swab Kits for staff working in Underwood Road Depot and Renfrewshire House started in February 2021. Staff working in either Underwood Road or Renfrewshire House were tested twice over a two-week period. This was a voluntary scheme and staff engagement sessions were conducted with the recommendation that staff take part to protect themselves, their colleagues, and their families.
- 4.16. Team Up to Clean Up has gifted almost 300 litter pickers to volunteers across Renfrewshire since March 2020. This has resulted in increased activity with over 60 litter picks being recorded each month in this last quarter. All volunteers receive a general risk assessment prior to activity and are further reminded to adhere to Covid restrictions and current guidelines.
- 4.17. From January 2021, volunteers have carried out 403 picks, removing 1473 bags of litter from our communities.
- 4.18. Volunteers are engaging well in the #winterwarriors campaign with 27 salt spreaders gifted to willing participants. Similar to the Team Up to Clean Up caddies, salt spreaders are gifts and volunteers are advised from the outset unlimited salt is not available. Due to the recent prolonged cold conditions, volunteers have been provided additional free resource.
- 4.19. Around 150 posters, declaring “Local volunteers have tidied this area for you”, have been issued to Team Up volunteers. There are displayed by litter pickers, in the spots they are maintaining. It is not yet clear of the posters impact however, volunteers are keen to spread the message increasing awareness of their work.
- 4.20. The Glasgow Science Centre launched the Curious About Our Planet, Digital Science Festival on 18th February. The Festival featured an interview from Renfrewshire Council’s Environmental Coordination officer who discussed the benefits and successes of the Team Up to Clean Up Campaign including local interest in the campaign, the difference it is making, and community empowerment.

COVID Vaccination Centres

- 4.21. On Monday 1st February, three vaccination centres at The Lagoon in Paisley, Johnstone Town Hall and Renfrew Leisure Centre opened. Environment and Infrastructure were heavily involved in supporting the process within the vaccination centres and in the traffic, street cleansing and waste management requirements. Fleet and Social Transport Services are supporting people on the shielding list, who have no means of transport, taking them from their home to the Vaccination Centres as they require to avoid public transport and taxis. Two drivers and two hygienically prepared and socially distanced vehicles on emergency call out between 07:30 and 20:00, 7 days a week to support members of the public by providing transportation in emergencies when all other options have been exhausted. The severe weather in February saw resources deployed to winter gritting, with significant activity around the 3 vaccination centres covering car parks, pathways, centre approaches and access routes back to key arterial roads.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** –The proposed suspension of car parking charges until the end of May 2021 would result in a loss of income to the Council and this will be captured as part of the ongoing work to identify costs and income losses as part of COVID 19 pandemic through the financial management.
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** – CRMG are continuing to review the Council's risk profile in light of the coronavirus pandemic.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None.
12. **CoSLA Policy Position** – none
13. **Climate Risk** – The Council continues to explore opportunities to secure external funding to deliver sustainable, green infrastructure projects.

List of Background Papers: none

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