

## **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL COVID-19 BRIEFING 16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**

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## **1. Priority issues**

### **a) Testing and Tracing**

#### Overview

1. The national Test and Trace system was launched in England on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020, and has three levels:
  - Tier 3 Contact Centre
  - Tier 2 Health Professionals
  - Tier 1 Public Health England (PHE) regional health protection teams
2. In practice, this means that those who test positive are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and asked to share information about their recent interactions, so those most at risk can be asked to self-isolate. This could include household members, people with whom they have been in direct contact, or within 2 metres for more than 15 minutes. People identified as having been in close contact with someone who has a positive test will need to stay at home for 14 days, even if they do not have symptoms. If those in isolation develop symptoms, they can book a test at [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or by calling 119.
3. Directors of Public Health will have the necessary powers and authority to lead the response locally and tackle outbreaks early and aggressively. The role of the public in making the programme a success, and how they can be reassured and encouraged is underpinned by the leadership of their local council. Councils will require the capacity and will receive the necessary data to play a full part in this national programme, to understand where the outbreaks are happening and be able to act quickly to contain them. This will include 'localised restrictions' and local powers to enforce lockdown arrangements. We are awaiting further guidance on this.

#### Key Headlines

4. Each upper tier local authority (LA) to have a Local Outbreak Plan in place to allow improved speed of response, which will be developed during June 2020. This will build on local knowledge, working with Public Health England (PHE) local Health Protection Team (HPTs).

5. The Director of Public Health (DPH) for every upper tier LA will drive this local plan through a COVID-19 Health Protection Board; and a member led Local Outbreak Engagement Board will provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response.
6. The place-based approach provides structure and responsibility, with a Joint Biosecurity Centre in place to enable effective flow of data consistency.
7. The Joint Biosecurity Centre will set the alert level, bringing data feeds together for Directors of Public Health (DsPH) to act on outbreaks.
8. Feedback on outbreaks will loop back into the national system.
9. 11 beacon councils (including Surrey) will work with an advisory board, the Association for the Directors of Public Health, and Solace to enable effective learning as new systems and processes are put in place.
10. There are 7 priorities within the Programme:
  - 1. Care homes and schools**
  - 2. High risk places, locations and communities**
  - 3. Local testing capacity**
  - 4. Contact tracing in complex settings**
  - 5. Data integration**
  - 6. Vulnerable Groups**
  - 7. Governance**

## **b) Care Home Resilience Plan – support for Care Homes**

### Support for Care Homes

11. On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020 the Minister of State for Care, Helen Whatley [MP wrote to all council leaders](#) regarding support for care homes.
12. The letter asked council chief executives to lead a process to develop care home support plans by 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020, supported by directors of adult social services and directors of public health, working with CCGs and taking into account the views of health and care providers.
13. These plans should be published on council websites and will be subject to a regional and national review process. The letter also includes further information on the new Adult Social Care Infection Control and Workforce Resilience Fund, including reference to the £600m infection control fund for care homes to reduce the rate of transmission in and between care homes and support wider workforce resilience.

### West Sussex update

14. In response, the County Council has drafted a Care Home Resilience Plan which captures what is underway and needs to be done to support care homes. Particular attention is on infection control measures being implemented and the allocation of the West Sussex portion of the £600m fund.
15. The Council was required to submit:
  - A letter from the Chief Executive describing the overview of the integrated support system, how this is working, what is being done to support isolation (where required) and financial support
  - A template populated by NHS Tracker returns from providers along with the identification of what additional support would be helpful.
16. There is no requirement to submit an actual plan, however we have attached the Social Work Action Plan which is our overall plan that includes the various actions to support care homes. This was submitted on time on

29<sup>th</sup> May and has been placed on the Council's website and on the new provider website, with a copy of the Chief Executive's letter an appendix to this paper (appendix B).

17. In preparing this submission discussions took place with providers, health colleagues, advocacy groups and Councillor Jupp as Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### Funding

18. The funding will be paid in two equal instalments to local authorities and will be allocated according to the number of care home beds in each area registered with the Care Quality Commission, with an adjustment to reflect the costs of operating in each area.
19. The Government request that 75% of the initial funding received is passed straight to care homes for use on infection control measures, including to care homes with whom the local authority does not have existing contracts. The remaining 25% must also be used for infection control measures, but it can be allocated based on need and may involve support for domiciliary care workforce measures.
20. West Sussex has been allocated £13.3m in total, which will be paid in two equal instalments in May and July. 75% of this will be paid directly to care homes at a rate of £975 per bed.
21. It is not yet decided how to spend the remaining 25% in West Sussex, but it will be determined by local need. It is however likely some financial support will be provided to supported living and extra care services for support with infection control issues.
22. We will work closely with care homes and other care providers going forward, and in conjunction with our health colleagues.

### **c) Cycling and Highways**

#### Reallocating road space – Tranche 1 bids and future tranches

23. This note describes how our response to changes to the highway as a result of easing the COVID-19 lockdown will be phased and how priorities for Tranche 1 are derived.

24. Government funding currently available to WSCC is £784k (Tranche 1) of £3.919m (Tranche 2) is called the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF). Tranche 1 of the EATF is aimed primarily at cycling schemes as an alternative to public transport. The £3.919m total is part of an overall £2bn long term package announced in February 2020. District and borough councils have access to a share of £50m (Re-launching the High Street Fund) which varies by local authority on a per capita basis.

25. WSCC has received 270 proposals that encompass schemes that are suitable for different phases and for different funding pots. Officers have categorised each scheme proposal as:

- **Type 1:** *pop-up cycle routes along roads*
- **Type 2:** *reallocating road space to / road closures / time-based restrictions in support of schools, restart and social distancing*
- **Type 3:** *town / shopping centre amendments.*

26. Response is divided into 3 distinct tranches:

- **TRANCHE 1** – Emergency response to the current easing of the lockdown. This is what we bid into on 5 June for a total of £784k and district and borough councils use their share of the Re-launching the High Street fund together with other funds that may be deployed. Schemes will therefore be made up of:
  - a) Type 1 walking and cycling routes aimed primarily at cycling schemes as an alternative to public transport. These will be prioritised by WSCC and we will bid into the EATF for funding.
  - b) Type 1 / 2 schemes that are considered to be priorities by district and borough councils but not included in WSCC bid for EATF. Such schemes will be funded by district and borough councils.
  - c) Type 3 schemes identified, prioritised and funded by the district and borough councils.

**NOTE** WSCC will maintain a list of all schemes. However at this time we are not aware of all proposals under b and c so are they not reported in this

note. In the meantime Area Highways Manager will be able to advise of proposed changes in areas.

- **TRANCHE 2** – Secondary response as lockdown restrictions continue to ease i.e. additional schemes / making schemes permanent / removal of redundant schemes. Details are yet unknown but there should be 2<sup>nd</sup> round of bidding for the remainder of the £3.919m available to West Sussex, likely to be in advance of schools full return in September.
- **TRANCHE 3** – Making schemes permanent / LCWIP business cases – bids where possible into the £2bn fund as it becomes available. Timescale for bidding for this tranche is likely to be months / a year ahead.

### Prioritisation of Tranche 1

27.To aid in prioritisation we have only considered those type 1 schemes at this time for submission into the EATF because these are the only proposals that truly fit the bidding guidance.

28.Type 1 schemes were prioritised using the following considerations. Each scheme scored 1 -5 depending on its relative strength.

- Public transport / key worker corridor / serving destinations
- Buildability – start in 4 weeks and complete in 8 weeks?
- Scope to make permanent
- LCWIP / STIP / WCS priority
- Stakeholder support – e.g. evidence supported by district or borough council, cycle forums and WSCC plans.
- Rapid Prioritisation Toolkit created by Leeds University which links the potential for cycling increase to estimations of available carriageway space.

29.The number of schemes we are able to bid for is limited by the total value of the fund available under Tranche 1. Costs are estimated as full life costs for a total of 18 months which is the maximum time permissible under a temporary traffic regulation order (where required).

30.In the first instance priorities are shared across West Sussex as the top priority by district and borough is as follows:

Type 1 walking and cycling routes aimed primarily at cycling schemes as an alternative to public transport.

31. Schemes will comprise of a combination of potential measures to reallocate road space to facilitate cycling, including temporary traffic management (cones and signing) light segregation using traffic wands, planters, water filled barriers, road markings, temporary 20mph speed limits, information and direction signing.

|           | <b>Description</b>  | <b>Location</b>     | <b>Length (km)</b> |
|-----------|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>1.</b> | Railway Station to Spitalfield Lane - Covert one lane of Oaklands Way to cycle lane. CDC to install pop-up route through theatre car park to connect with Broyle Road. Consider extending east to St Richard's Hospital. To enable western connection with Avenue de Chartres consider widening existing Northgate Gyratory cycleway and installing wands (or other form of light segregation) and introducing 20mph from Westgate to Spitalfield Lane. Consider converting one lane of Avenue de Chartres to cycle lane. | Chichester          | 2.0                |
| <b>2.</b> | A259 Chichester to Bognor – (widening the temporary surface where possible) cut back vegetation and side out existing path, which has become narrow in places. Consider converting one lane of western dual carriageway to cycle/bus lane.  | Bognor Regis (Arun) | 5.4                |
| <b>3.</b> | Three Bridges to Manor Royal - linking to NCN21 (Take opportunity to improve this section of NCN21) (reallocation of carriageway space) / Balcombe Road to Town Centre (via Three Bridges) – improving continuity of existing cycle provision by adding missing links. Look to improve existing cycle facilities. (Reallocation of carriageway space).  | Crawley             | 4.5                |



|    |  |                             |             |
|----|--|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 4. | A270 Adur River/A283 to Hove Boundary along Upper Shoreham Rd and Old Shoreham Rd past Holmbush roundabout. Links to BHCC pop-up lane.   | Shoreham (Adur)             | 4.6         |
| 5. | Create cycle provision connecting the north and south of Worthing: A24/A259 Grove Lodge to The Steyne (seafront). Reallocation of roadscape.   | Worthing                    | 2.9         |
| 6. | Cone off one lane of Albion Way in each direction from Sainsbury's and Waitrose to the Bishopric - provides space for people to cycle and walk to the supermarkets and the town. Consider extending to Springfield Rd. | Horsham                     | 0.4         |
| 7. | Extend existing cycle lane in London Road (southbound) from Engalee (cul-de-sac) as far as Lingfield Rd roundabout. Add light segregation to existing cycle lane.  | East Grinstead (Mid Sussex) | 1.7         |
|    |  | <b>Total</b>                | <b>21.5</b> |

32.The seven schemes listed above is expected to expend the full value of the funding currently available.

### Tranche 2 and 3

33.In anticipation of Tranche 2, officers will continue to work with district and borough councils to prioritise the 270 scheme proposals in order to create an agreed list to be submitted when we are able to bid for Tranche 2. Once complete the prioritised list will be available for Members consideration.

34.In due course officers will continue work on LCWIP priorities such that full scheme businesses cases are available for tranche 3 when and if it arrives.

### **d) Reset update**

35.The work to assess the short and medium term impact of and learning from the COVID-19 response is progressing well and will be at the core of the Cabinet-led work to Reset the County Council's Business Plan and Budget. It

will be underpinned by a Reboot Programme which will support and ensure the way we work is effective and focussed, with our partners. on the needs of our residents, communities and businesses.