

# Highways Service COVID-19 Response

# General Overview

- Government announcement March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 on lockdown.
- Significant disruption to all elements of the highways service.
- Highway Operations delivering only emergency response.
- All other elements of the business had to adapt to an immediate new way of working.
- Period of understanding Government Guidance and how this applied to the service.
- Professional and positive attitude from staff.

# Highway Development Management

- Initially unable to visit sites - affected S278's, S38's and traffic data collection.
- Teams identified as key workers allowed site visits within one week.
- Increased use of IT for less complex sites.
- Technical guidance was drafted for team and developers to deal with lack of data.
- Now Maintaining business as usual with mostly remote working as the new norm.
- Operating in line or better than the private sector who furloughed staff.
- Service delivery is now more sustainable.

# Flood Risk Management

- FRM work immediately adapted to remote working.
- Partnership meetings all adapted to conference calls and continue.
- February floods - public consultations were on hold affecting S19 work, now unlocking .



# Flood Risk Management

- June floods - affected people urged to make their own reports to [highways@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:highways@lancashire.gov.uk) .
- Initial drop-off in requests for consultations and site meetings/work. Now returning to normal.



# Highway Regulation/Network Management

- **Parking Services:**
- Initial reduction in enforcement covering primary routes only.
- Enforcement increased proportionally as lockdown reduced.
- By July service will be back to pre-lockdown levels including targeted enforcement.
- The Government guidance in terms of providing free parking for NHS staff, health & social care workers and NHS volunteers is still being followed.

# Highway Regulation/Network Management

- **Highway Safety Inspections:**
  - Initial reduction in service, concentrating on dangerous defects.
  - Normal levels of inspection are now being achieved.
  - Driven inspections from July.
- **Highway Regulation:**
  - First week a large drop off in demand from Utility services.
  - Quickly increased as Utility works were classified as essential.
  - Utility firms taking advantage of reduced traffic at problematic sites.
  - Normal levels of demand on the service are being managed with remote working.

# Highway Regulation/Network Management

- **Road Safety Engineering Team:** operated normally throughout (remote working) and involved in restart initiative.
- **Road Safety Education Team:** Normal workload stopped as schools closed. Team redeployed to Covid19 duties.
- **School Crossing Patrol Service:** Workload stopped as schools closed. Service resuming as school pupil numbers increase.
- **Traffic Signals Team:** Continued to work as normal throughout remotely.
- **Traffic Monitoring Team:** Monitoring traffic flows throughout and supporting the Travel Restart initiatives .



# Highways Service Operations - A Phased Return

## Phase 1 – March/April

Interpret government guidance

Biggest challenge was masks & social distancing

Task methods amended

COVID 19 – Depot and Site Operating Procedure written

A small number of teams return (defects and SL repairs)

On a rota basis

Single person vehicle usage

Emergency works only

Staff and operatives led on the construction of the Temporary morgue at BAE

Staff and operatives provided welfare facilities for Burnley NHS (COVID testing)

# Depot Signs



# Preston Hospital



# Highways Service Operations - A Phased Return

## Phase 2 – April/May

In addition to Phase 1

Interpret updated government guidance

Update COVID 19 – Depot and Site Operating Procedure

More teams return to work

Some low risk capital resume schemes

Staggered start/finish times

Grass cutting functions also resume



# Highways Service Operations - A Phased Return



# Highways Service Operations - A Phased Return

## Phase 3 - May/June

In addition to Phase 2

Interpret continuously updated government guidance

Update COVID 19 – Depot and Site Operating Procedure

All teams return to work

All revenue and capital schemes resume

Contractors welfare pods

New In-situ recycling process

Training to recommence

Assisted with the reopening of the Household Waste Recycling Centres

# Contractors Welfare Pods



# In-situ Recycling





# In-situ Recycling



# In-situ Recycling



# Highways Service Operations - Challenges

## Continuous challenges

Face mask availability

Maintaining social distancing affecting

Single person vehicle usage

method of working for operatives and staff

site layout

some projects may take longer

some projects may have increase in costs

some training courses (numbers)

Appropriate Facilities for training


# Highways Service Operations - Communications

Each year around November / December we hold 12 district member briefings to share the draft capital programme with CC's.

This gives CC's an opportunity shape and influence the programme, ask questions of Cabinet Member and officers and make suggestions for future schemes. The programme is then finalised and goes to cabinet in March and then is available on the intranet

# Capital Programme scheme details are published on the Highways Asset Management Webpages at:

: <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads-parking-and-travel/highway-asset-management-in-lancashire/programme-of-works/>



Home / Council / Strategies, policies and plans / Roads, parking and travel / Highway asset management In Lancashire

## Programme of works

### 2020/21 Capital Programme

The Capital Programme for 20/21 was approved by [Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2020](#)

The main programmes of work are:


- [ABC roads](#)
- [Unclassified roads](#)
- [Footways](#)
- [Bridges](#)
- [Drainage](#)
- [Traffic signals](#)

In addition to this [Cabinet approved in June](#) the apportionment of an additional £5m

[Approved urgent storm damage schemes](#)

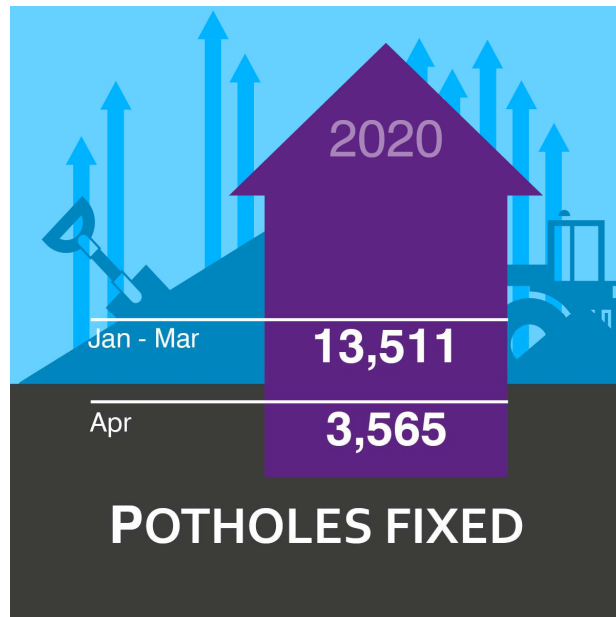
Details of further schemes are being developed.

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk)

**Lancashire**  
County  
Council



# Pothole Figures



- On the Pothole Campaign Page :  
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/pothole/>
- Pothole\Safety Defect performance figures are reported quarterly to CCPI, next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> September:  
<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=176&MIId=10353>

# A Big Thank You from LCC

