

SCC CORONAVIRUS TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2020
County/District Councillor Vije

Please note that there will be no briefing this Friday, 8th May, due to the public holiday for VE Day, and it is intended that thereafter these briefings will be once a week on Fridays.

- Latest official ONS figures up to 24th April – the total number of new Covid-19 related deaths in Somerset is 19, bringing the overall total to 95 (within a hospital setting 57, care home 32, in other settings 6).
- For the week to April 24th – there have been 28 Covid-19 related deaths out of a total of just below 160 of all recorded deaths in Somerset.
- PPE – 2m. pieces have been distributed in Somerset in total (SCC has now purchased £1.4m. of this total) - 750k face protection items (goggles masks etc.); 400k gloves, 250k aprons and gowns, 3k litres of sanitising gel,; 22k boxes of wipes; 2k body bags (as yet unused). There is no record of care homes in Somerset being unable to obtain necessary PPE supplies.
- Expenditure has gone from £500k per week down to £200k, but this has now jumped again to an extra £76k, due to market demand for supplies.
- Service provision - things are relatively quiet with all services working well.
- Future planning –
 - guidance on re-opening waste re-cycling centres is awaited. None in the SW have as yet been allowed to re-open. Legally this is NOT considered an essential journey. At present the police are unable to provide traffic management support for this.
 - it is anticipated that more children will be able to return to school in the near future.
 - NHS – all critical care e.g. cancer treatment, is expected to resume imminently.
 - transport – taxi drivers providing transport for patients are struggling to source PPE.
- Care homes – About 10% have been affected by Covid-19. Some are still awaiting tests, but the situation remains stable.
- Community resilience – the Coronavirus helpline has received 3,000 calls so far. At the end of last week there was a spike in calls as a result of vulnerable residents receiving NHS letters. Pro-active call outs are being made to vulnerable residents. Where no contact has been possible, door-to-door calls are being made, in partnership with village agents, district councils and the CCG, and the fire service. There have been some issues with the quality of some food provided in ‘shielding’ parcels, but this is being rectified.
- Homelessness - There has been some reporting of homelessness and options are being offered but the situation is changing constantly due to the nature and needs of those involved. Tents have been issued in Yeovil where some homeless people prefer to remain outside formal housing provision.
- Food banks – no major issues have been reported so far.
- Business – data sets are being combined to gather intelligence in relation to the supply of utilities for vulnerable residents. It is thought that any shortfall as a result of local authority investments in commercial property will not be funded by central government.
- Distribution hubs are performing well for food and sanitary items. 500 parcels have distributed so far, based on identified need.
- Domestic abuse – work is being done to ensure adequate preparation is in place to cope with any increase in incidents.

- Highways – work continues on road improvement, subject to risk assessments being carried out.
- Finance – draft outturn figures, subject to audit – a revenue underspend of £6.42m is predicted, £1.27m. on capital projects. Negative reserves have been eliminated. Finance for schools is being treated separately.
- Covid-19 costs – PPE spend – loss of income £43.7m. Funding received from gov't so far has been £15.6m and a further £9.9m. (the reduced sum is because £5.7m. of the allocation was given to District councils to support their costs). CCG will pick up £3.9m. of this, largely in relation to care and PPE provision.
- Adult social care has shown the greatest increase in demand financially, which is to be expected.
- Lost income from council tax and business rates will result in a potential shortfall of £14.1m.