



Havering  
LONDON BOROUGH

Cleaner, Safer, Prouder *Together*

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# **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINTY**

## **SEPT 2020**

### **Covid – 19 Update for Environmental Services**

Sue Harper- Interim AD, Environment

Paul Ellis – Group Manager, Public Realm

Nicolina Cooper – Interim Group Manager, H,T,P

# Immediate Impact : General

- Business Continuity plans enacted across services
- From late March, all office based staff told to work from home
- Some staff were moved to support other work areas within the Council
- % of staff were 'unable' to work – reduce service levels, stop some services, use of agency staff
- Loss of income – mainly Parking but others
- Loss of external funding – mainly TfL
- Change patterns of work to allow staff to social distance

## Highways & Transport: Initial Impact

- All office based staff wfh – some relocated to other services
- DSO still undertaking emergency works
- Highways contractor continued with safe working practices in place
- All TfL funded schemes stopped
- Supported re-opening of high streets during May

# Highways and Transport : Current Position

- TfL funding now only available for schemes supporting safe cycling and walking
- Restarted consultation on small schemes

# Parking : Initial Impact

- Decision made to make parking free in council-owned car parks, CPZ's and on-street
- Limited enforcement – mainly for dangerous parking and yellow lines
- Some CEO's moved to support other work
- Significant loss of income (£3.5M over period)

# Parking : Current Position

- Enforcement of CPZ's reintroduced 13 July
- Charging for car parks and on-street reintroduced with enforcement from 3<sup>rd</sup> August
- Introduction of new Ringo App for payment
- Introduced 1hr free parking on-street & 20% discount with Ringo in car parks to support high streets
- 'Havering Hero' permit introduced to support key workers
- CEO's – staggered start to working patterns to allow for social distancing

# Waste & Recycling – Immediate Impact

- Serco experienced initial 30% loss of staff; reliance on agency staff
- Waste and Recycling services maintained on weekly collections
- Garden waste and bulky waste collections ceased on 26<sup>th</sup> March in line with Business Continuity Plan
- Significant increase in tonnages collected (42% following May Bank Hol weekend)
- Gerpins Lane RRC closed (ELWA/Renewi)
- Corbet Tey toilets closed



## Waste & Recycling – Current Position

- Serco staffing levels back to normal; crews working in ‘bubbles’
- Waste & recycling tonnages reduced but remain high (10% extra) – Serco deploying more staff
- Garden waste collections reinstated 13<sup>th</sup> April
- Bulky waste collections reinstated 1<sup>st</sup> June; free collections for NHS shielding customers
- Gerpins Lane reopened on 11<sup>th</sup> May – new arrangements with less vehicles allowed on site and initially with traffic management in place

# **Estates Cleansing Service – Immediate Impact**

- Immediate loss of staffing (18%)
- New working arrangements to ensure staff safety – PPE & reduction of staff numbers in vehicles
- Reduced amount of cleansing inside blocks

## **Estates Cleansing Service – Current Position**

- Staff levels back to normal
- Still working with reduced staffing in vehicles
- Still working at reduced levels of cleansing in blocks

## Street Cleansing – Immediate Impact

- Immediate loss of staffing (22%)
- New working arrangements to ensure staff safety – PPE & reduction of staff numbers in vehicles
- Staggered staff start times to allow social distancing in depots
- ‘busing’ staff round Borough

## Street Cleansing – Current Position

- Staffing levels back to normal and 10 days sweeps in place
- Still with staggered staff start times to allow social distancing in depots
- Still ‘busing’ staff round Borough

# Grounds Maintenance & Parks – Immediate Impact

- All parks/open spaces & car parks remained open
- Significant increase in daily use of parks and open spaces
- Loss of GM staffing; remaining team used to cover problems elsewhere, mainly street cleansing and Cemetery Service
- Reduced levels of maintenance in park but additional emptying of bins
- Closure of parks facilities – sports pitches, play areas, MUGA's, etc and no events
- Additional patrolling in parks to address safety issues
- Some depots closed and staggered start times for staff

## **Grounds Maintenance & Parks – Current Position**

- Use of parks and open spaces remains high but has reduced
- Less bedding due to closure of nurseries
- Normal GM routines in place
- All depots re-opened but staff remain on staggered start times
- All parks facilities reopened and limited events and sports allowed