

APSE Scotland Waste & Recycling Advisory Group

3rd July 2020

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Remobilisation Report – Waste & Recycling

- APSE has undertaken remobilisation reports for each of the frontline service
- These reports have been compiled with the input of local authorities services from across the UK
- Involving an initial scoping report followed by more in depth discussions covering 4 key areas:-
 - Budget, Finance & re-establishing commercial activity
 - Operational activity
 - Re-grouping the workforce
 - Technical issues

Remobilisation Report – Waste & Recycling

- During the pandemic local authorities have been required to adapt and implement alternative approaches to service delivery
- Most of the plans were implemented in a short period of time to ensure the continued delivery of waste and recycling services
- **Closure of HWRC's due to problems with social distancing**

Budget, Finance & Re-establishing Commercial Activity

- Impact of COVID 19 is going to be substantial over the short and long term
- **Governments' promise to reimburse councils for costs associated with COVID-19.** Still a degree of uncertainty as to whether this reimbursement will cover all lost income.
- Some of the areas where additional costs have been so far incurred include:
 - provision of additional fleet to aid with collections due to increased tonnages
 - extra vehicles being brought in to reduce the number of operatives in vehicles
 - extra staff, to cover staff who have been off sick with COVID 19 or those shielding
 - suspended trade waste collections, bulky and chargeable garden waste collections
- Some local authorities have been able to recharge corporately any costs relating to COVID-19. COVID-19 specific cost codes to help track costs

Operational Activity

- Whilst some council services had limited or ceased their operations, waste collection services were identified as a key **service to ensure the public's waste was dealt with safely and regularly.**
- Prioritisation of waste services – residual, recycling, green waste and bulky collections
- **Closure of HWRC's due to problems with social distancing**
- Suspension or scaling down of street cleansing to allow staff to be redeployed to support waste collections
- Operating a 2 or 3 man crew still in the same cab became a major issue
- Issuing of PPE, additional vehicles and changes to staff working regimes to reduce possibility of infection

Operational Activity

- Crews allowed to operate under the task and finish model
- Providing new risk assessments in vehicle cabs and information on Coronavirus hygiene, symptoms etc
- Providing handwashing stations, masks if requested, hand gel and gloves, Installing screens in vehicles ,Deep cleaning vehicles, providing driver cleaning kits at the beginning and end of the day, additional toilet facilities
- Constant stream of guidance being provided
- **Reopening HWRC's** with new measures being introduced: booking or permit systems, restrictions on waste streams and numbers on-site at any given time, traffic management, communication campaigns to ensure problem-free reopening.

Regrouping the workforce

- Redeploying of staff from other services and to other services
- Reduced numbers of staff due to shielding
- Physical distancing measures in place
- Increased working from home, phone lines transferred
- Reduced numbers travelling in vehicles
- Rota systems and staggered work times
- Keeping the same crews together as much as possible
- Looking at staffing numbers and temporary staff to cover annual leave periods etc

Technical Considerations

- Most councils felt that there should not be any significant problems in bringing facilities and operational equipment back online as most had been operating
- Risk assessments are being reviewed and enhanced with particular emphasis being placed on social distancing, hygiene and health and safety
- The wearing of face coverings by drivers and any risk assessments particularly for those wearing spectacles
- Practicality of plastic screening within cabs and issues of safe access and exit from vehicles, particularly given the risks presented by an road traffic accident
- Lone drivers and the operation of safety switches
- Dealing with public disposing of their own masks and face coverings and disposable gloves

Remobilisation reports



Reports for all services can be found [here](#)

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Contact details

Louise Melville, Principal Advisor

Email: Lmelville@apse.org.uk

Phone: 01698 459051

Association for Public Service Excellence (Scotland)
Brandon House Business Centre, Unit 18-20,
23-25 Brandon Street, Hamilton, ML3 6DA.
telephone: 01698 459051
web: www.apse.org.uk