Gloucestershire County Council Report Spring 2020

Cllr Will Windsor-Clive Newent Division

Written 1st May

The County Council was on track to deliver its plan up until the beginning of March this year. The emergency of Corona virus 19 has changed everything for everyone and Council officers reacted very quickly, the County immediately gave 50K to each District Council with the intention of helping community groups. They set up a Help Hub through which anyone in need could apply to – anyone knowing anyone in need could report to and anyone wanting to help could register too.

Primary Care – Public Health – Social Services all worked together to help and were very effective.

All meetings have been cancelled and virtual meetings are being organised, more than two thousand staff are now working from home.

An enormous amount of work has gone into protecting the vulnerable and we have 3500 vulnerable children in the County and Government have identified 12000 vulnerable adults (under what they call shield) most of whom we have contacted offering help and we will continue to try and contact all. Adult social care workers have gone to a 7 day rota with cover from 8am to 8pm.

Children on free school meals who are not at school have been having meals delivered.

The Council has been given just over 27 million by Government to help us and it is too early to know how the costs and loss of income will pan out – up to the end of the financial year (beginning of April) there was little effect to our budgets but our first estimate is that this may have an extra cost of 38 million this year with the extra cost of Social Care loss of parking income council tax reduction where there is hardship and Government waiving business rates etc.

With the roads budget we have cut back to emergency repairs with the exception of resurfacing which we are increasing as much as we can as there is less traffic.

Waste is being collected and the District has done well to keep the service going in a very effective way – Household Recycling Centres (HRC’s) have been closed which has been very inconvenient to many people and we have been looking at ways to reopen then safely and will, hopefully, reopen some in the next week or so but probably with a booking system.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been very much in the news but Gloucestershire has not had a shortage and I have been told by the Director of Public Health (Gloucestershire) today that there is no problem and any facility that has a need that they cannot deal with can get it delivered within 24hrs.