

Appendix 2: Surrey Recovery Coordinating Group (RCG) – Covid-19 ‘Transitioning from Recovery’: ‘Place’

Background

Following the declaration of a major incident by the Local Resilience Forum to manage the response to Covid-19 in Surrey, the multi-agency Recovery Coordinating Group (RCG) was established to plan for and coordinate recovery from the pandemic at a county wide level. The RCG developed a Recovery Strategy with the aim ‘To restore the humanitarian, economic, environmental and infrastructure well-being, conditions and resilience of Surrey’, with the objectives to:

- Restore essential services that have been disrupted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and associated response measures (e.g. lockdown and social distancing)
- Ensure the effective transition to a ‘steady state’, with clear responsibilities identified for the continuation of services
- Capture lessons learned and refer on to the relevant body/authority.

A number of sub-groups under the themes of humanitarian, economic, environmental and infrastructure were established, and associated action plans developed and implemented.

Introduction

In line with the objectives of the Recovery Strategy, the action plans developed by the sub-groups identified short term ‘restart and restore’ actions across public, private and third sector organisations, as well as medium and longer term actions to support the Surrey community on its journey to recovery from the pandemic.

The RCG met weekly from April 2020 to August 2020 to oversee the ‘restart and restore’ actions, as well as looking at where actions could sit in the longer term. This document sets out some of the new practices developed during the pandemic and the medium and longer term actions that have been identified to support the recovery of Surrey. The responsibility for these actions will transition to existing agencies and partnerships to take forward as part of their business as usual activity, within their existing financial framework and governance arrangements. As well as identifying delivery partners for the actions, the document also identifies an overseeing body/strategic link, who will be asked to take on a governance role to ensure the proposed actions are fully considered and implemented and communicated as appropriate.

Going forward the RCG will move to a monitoring role, liaising with the delivery and oversight bodies accountable for delivery of the actions, whilst monitoring the Recovery Progress Index and the strategic risk register to ensure that Surrey continues to recover positively from the pandemic.

Place

To plan for a revisioning focussed on building in climate change to our lifestyles with better air quality, nurturing the environment and embracing the gains arising from working from home, less and more sustainable travel, technological connectivity and a better balance in lifestyles, access to housing, physical place and socialisation in line with the Surrey 2030 Community Vision and our Climate Change Strategy. Particular emphasis on Local Planning and encompassing the new normal and changed community expectations.

Some of the new practices/opportunities to be considered include:

- Considering the impact of changes on the demand and supply of physical infrastructure and accommodation.
- Implications for more sustainable access to quality residential accommodation for all.
- Impact on the world of business and work, demand for home working, travel, office and retail floorspace.
- Local Plans that meet the new aspirations for the future development of place.
- Addressing shortcomings in having enough community resilience accommodation for future emergencies.
- Ensuring the sense of community experienced continues in our places.
- Optimising the community and health and well-being benefits of well designed places and infrastructure that are integrated with natural infrastructure rather than conflicting.
- Understanding the skills and jobs that will be created as a result of achieving the “new normal”.
- An opportunity to consider and plan for making town centres far more pedestrian and cycle friendly to secure air quality, climate change and public health benefits
- Public and community transport running to time without having to compete for road space derived in recent weeks, demonstrating benefit of priority public transport network.
- The opportunity to fundamentally review the local bus offer eg applying a different offer in rural areas, for example, considering Demand Responsive Transport (DRT).
- The opportunity to develop and encourage active travel building upon Government and NHS England’s promotion of taking daily exercise each day to see how we can build walking and cycling better into the planning process and the reshaping of town centres.
- Maintaining the increased levels of exercise; walking, running and (non-sport) leisure cycling through interventions to keep local streets safe and quiet.
- Significant demand for greenspace, particularly in more built-up areas, with increased pressures on local parks and commons.

Specific actions identified by the RCG for consideration for the medium/longer term are set out below. Financial implications of these actions will be included in the Financial Strategies of relevant organisations. Appropriate comms support around the actions can be provided via the MIG.

Issue/Action	Delivery partners	Overseeing Body / Strategic link
Support home working – Positive planning and supporting investment in digital, IT systems and home working environments, whilst also addressing digital poverty. Focus infrastructure funds on broadband, 5G and other digital infrastructure and smart technology.	EM3, Coast to Capital (C2C) and county councils	One Surrey Growth Board
Bus provision based on user demand and social distancing measure. Comms in line with Government guidance	Bus operators in consultation with Strategic Transport Group, incl the travel needs of residents & businesses	SCC

Train provision based on user demand and social distancing measure. Comms in line with Government guidance	Train Operating Companies and Department for Transport (DfT), in consultation with councils	One Surrey Growth Board
More space for pedestrians - Implementation of agreed measures and changes through works programme	Highways with support from D&Bs	SCC
More cycle facilities - Implementation of agreed measures and changes and the acceleration of the completion of the local cycling and walking implementation plans (LCWIPS). Secure funding and implement a network of permanent cycle infrastructure schemes based on LCWIPS, whilst boosting the cycle training offer	Highways with support from D&Bs	SCC Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 – FA 6 – Healthy Environment
Return to school – reshape transport plans as schools reopen	SCC Children, Families and Learning (CFL) to lead supported by SCC Highways and Transportation (H&T), with operator liaison	SCC Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 – FA 6 – Healthy Environment
Support climate change agenda - Define a network of permanent bus priority schemes and pinch point interventions to support council and operator fleet and other investment. Secure funding and implement a network of permanent bus priority schemes and pinch point interventions to support council and operator fleet, information and other investment	SCC H&T in consultation with bus companies	SCC
Government Funding - Press Government to urgently review the conditions and deadlines attached to the many different funding streams. Also press to allow direct funding where it will have the most impact in addressing the immediate impact as well as the recovery from, and legacy of, COVID19	SCC H&T in consultation with LEPS and neighbouring councils	LEPS
Community Transport (CT) - Dial-a-ride demand likely to increase, but Centres for the Community staying shut. Ongoing need to support self-isolating with medicine & food collection / delivery. CT able to meet requirements of ad hoc school routes and NHS requirements, but may need to furlough staff should ASC services not return. Could result in job losses. CT operators ability to retain workforce and flexibility will depend on CT's ability to continue to diversify, alongside resumption of all school and adult centre	SCC H&T, CFL, Adult Social Care (ASC), Public Health (PH)	Health and Wellbeing Board

Aviation and jobs - Impact of COVID-19 on local jobs related to reduction in economic activity at Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. Mitigating the impact though working with LEPs and other partners. Key to this will be an understanding of the supply chains for businesses that are located close to the airports and their reliance upon it and the transport	SCC, D&Bs	One Surrey Growth Board Surrey Future
Decarbonation and revitalisation of town centres. Supporting the new and anticipated human, economic, travel and environmental needs of Surrey through transport	SCC, D&Bs	Surrey Future Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 – FA 6 – Healthy Environment
Climate change, including biodiversity, natural capital and carbon reduction. Plan for a “climate smart” recovery	SPOA/D&Bs Local Plans - in consultation. SCC Climate Change Strategy. Surrey Nature Partnership (SyNP). Surrey Climate Change Commission. Incl. Natural Capital Investment Plan and Nature Recovery Network and Strategy	Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 – FA 6 – Healthy Environment
Access to affordable quality housing. Planning for a restructured housing market and shift in values/costs. Including Biodiversity Net Gain in achieving	SPOA/D&Bs plus SyNP	D&Bs
Improved air quality. Almost entirely dependent on travel changes – staggered commuting, modal shift through investment in improved cycle and walking facilities.		Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 – FA 6 – Healthy Environment
Less congestion/easier travel/better connectivity. Travel changes – staggered commuting, modal shift through investment in improved cycle and walking facilities.	SCC/Rethinking Surrey Transport	Surrey Future
Improved 5G digital connectivity. To facilitate working from home (WFH), social resilience and a stronger digital economy		One Surrey Growth Board Surrey Future
Infrastructure and construction capacity. Investment in additional and upgraded infrastructure and public facilities	Surrey Place Ambition and D&B Local Plans/Infrastructure Plans	Surrey Future
Improved open spaces and leisure/recreation facilities	D&B Local Plans/developers/sports assoc/Sport England. Health and Well-being Strategy Priority 1	Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 –

		FA 1 – Excess weight and physical inactivity
Physical community resilience. Address the lack of shared community facilities available for future emergencies – centralised depots etc	SCC	LRF
Town Centres as geographical community hubs. Public realm improvements, need for physical floorspace in town centres/surplus office and retail floorspace. Reduced personal travel/car use	SCC, D&B Local Plans/Surrey Urban Strategy	One Surrey Growth Board Surrey Future
Identify sustainable placement (for homeless housed during COVID) in suitable accommodation. Ensure ongoing multi-agency support for health needs and recovery including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further mobilise primary care to support homeless - Manage discharge from hospitals and mental health care - Improved prison release process - Use learning from Surrey Adults Matter programme to inform engagement of all partners 	Surrey Homeless Multi-Agency Group / Surrey Adults Matter	Prevention & Wider Determinants Board - Health and Wellbeing Board: HWBS Priority 1 – FA 3 – Housing

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