



Creating a safer  
**Cambridgeshire**

**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 26 May 2020

## Constabulary Covid-19 Update

### 1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Cambridgeshire Constabulary's ("the Constabulary") response to the Covid19 coronavirus; both as a standalone organisation and as active partner in Local Resilience Forum (LRF) multi-agency arrangements to the Business Coordination Board ("the Board"). It follows on from an initial paper submitted to the Business Coordination Board ("the Board") on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

1.2 In particular, the paper responds to questions posed directly by the BCB in relation to the pandemic:

- The continuing Constabulary response to the demands placed by the Covid-19 pandemic
- On-going Countywide partnership arrangements
- Responding to changes in enforcement powers
- Operational capability, service provision to the public
- Strategic risks emerging and support required

- Planning for recovery and the pursuit of a new normality both as a Constabulary and as part of the LRF.

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note this additional paper

## **3. Key Updates**

### **3.1 Constabulary response to the demands placed on by the Covid-19 emergency**

3.1.1 The Constabulary's internal response to the challenge of the Covid19 coronavirus remain as described in the previous paper. This approach has been shown to be sustainable and effective in maintaining appropriate governance of the response and business as usual.

3.1.2 Since the previous paper, work has progressed to look at the implications of the gradual release of some social restrictions in terms of policing both with respect to officers and staff and service delivered. This is the first part of making a transition to "Recovery", whilst maintaining grip on immediate response to existing day-to-day challenges presented by the virus which will continue to remain.

3.1.3 Constabulary planning for the longer-term recovery follows in 3.6 below.

### **3.2 Countywide Partnership Arrangements**

3.2.1 As per the policing update, the LRF has sustained both immediate response arrangements and started thinking about restoration/restart of some community services and activities, as a "bridge" to longer-term, more comprehensive recovery (See 3.6). A Business Restoration Group, led by Police, has been active looking at the immediate aftermath of stage one of the national government Recovery Plan announced by the Prime Minister on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

### **3.3 Responding to changes in Enforcement Powers**

3.3.1 The Recovery Plan announcements included some changes to enforcement when breaches of measures to protect public health occur. These changes follow the introduction of new legislation last month. The Constabulary has worked hard and engaged nationally to ensure that potential confusion concerning necessary, rapid changes is unpicked and officers are equipped and informed to make decisions that are pragmatic and seek to focus on public engagement, legitimacy and confidence in local policing.

### **3.4 Operational Capability and Capacity**

3.4.1 Throughout the pandemic to date the Constabulary has not been in a position where levels of absence of staff have affected the ability to sustain a good standard of service delivery to the communities of Cambridgeshire.

3.4.2 Fit-for-purpose contingency plans remain in place to respond to any increase in absence affecting capability and capacity. These plans are graduated and able to

respond to fluctuations to ensure that critical services are identified and sustained, even in the most challenging of resourcing circumstances.

### 3.5 Strategic Risks

At this time there are no strategic risks requiring the immediate support of the BCB.

### 3.6 Recovery:

3.6.1 Civil Contingencies doctrine identifies that the first step in recovery from an incident or event begins on “day one”, as the immediate response is in full-swing. As the response progresses and immediate risks are managed and contained, plans to look at recovery, learning and what must be established to arrive at a new normality begin to take precedence.

3.6.2 The LRF has set up a Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG) which is joint chaired by the Chief Executives of Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. The Constabulary are active partners in this work, with ACC Vicki Evans and Superintendent Steve Kerridge as group members. This is approaching a third meeting.

3.6.3 In accordance with civil contingencies doctrine, the RCG is establishing a number of subgroups to identify and respond to the range of issues that affect the County system-wide in recovering and pursuing a new normality. The Constabulary will have representation on all eight subgroups, will chair the Criminal Justice subgroup and playing a leading part in subgroups focusing on Communities and Vulnerability respectively.

3.6.4 Echoing the approach of the LRF and best practice, the Constabulary has set up its own Recovery and Learning Group (RLG) chaired by the ACC. There is a close interface between this group and the LRF’s work, but focus is on the Constabulary mitigating risks and planning for future, effectively adapting to a new normality and importantly identifying positive opportunities to develop future service provision. The group has established a comprehensive register of current and future risks, issues and opportunities and this will define the sequence and urgency of actions to be taken.

3.6.5 The first formal meeting of the RLG will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May and the group reporting appropriately into the existing Constabulary governance structure.

## 4. **Next Steps/Recommendations**

4.1 The Constabulary will continue to sustain an effective model to deal with immediate risk from the coronavirus and guard against complacency. In parallel, develop and implement plans for longer-term recovery and opportunities to find positive outcomes. This will be achieved in step with wider LRF partners.

4.2 This paper is submitted for information only. Further information can be provided on the Constabulary’s behalf by:

- T/Supt Steve Kerridge – Op Covid19 – Head of Recovery and Learning.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Document(s)</b>	
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	T/Supt Steve Kerridge – Op Covid-19 – Head of Recovery and Learning