

Operational Updates by Chief Executive/Gold Commander

3 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relaxation from the Scottish Government on the requirement of 1140 hours of early learning and childcare and a re-evaluation from August 2020. • Work was taking place with the Council's ALEOs to assist with additional staff for re-tasking to critical areas. • Children's Activity Centres were now set up for key workers in five areas with further provision also being investigated. • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) being provided to Waste Services operators in all vehicles to reduce the spread of infection following national guidance. • A new website Tayside Cares (www.taysidecares.co.uk) created to provide information, advice and assistance regarding Coronavirus for citizens living in Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross. • A database of volunteers being established and co-ordinated by the Council to support vulnerable people across the Perth and Kinross area, involved in such activities as the distribution of food parcels across rural areas to essential people. • Further support in terms of welfare, business grants, and support to self-catering businesses. • The by-election for Ward 11 caused by the resignation of former Councillor Dave Doogan provisionally scheduled to take place on 26 November 2020.
10 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing – this was being expanded to both teaching and non-teaching staff in addition to those staff already being tested in Health and Social Care. Guidance would be coming out to all Council staff on testing. Gill Reeves from Learning and Development had been appointed as a Staff Wellbeing Champion for Council staff. • Agreement had been reached at COSLA level on average pay rates for supply teachers until the end of June. • The Re-tasking process of staff into critical service areas was on-going and increasing in pace. • Business grants were continuing. • The Registrars function would now be open to the public seven days a week from this weekend. • Legislation coming forward next week to the Scottish Parliament to extend the timescales for both the submission of school placing requests for 2020/21 and the holding of any required appeal hearings. • The Council was adhering to new guidelines published by the Scottish Government this week on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
17 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of business grants only being given out per business and not per premises had now been addressed. Funding was also coming in for those who registered as self employed after April 2019. This would come into effect from the beginning of May. • Concerns relating to lack of flexibility of Non-Domestic Rates cut-off at 17 March for rates relief had been raised with the Deputy First Minister. A response is awaited.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has provided updated guidance on PPE for all staff. This includes a flow chart and tool kit which reflects national guidance. Liaison has also taken place with Trade Unions. • The re-tasking of staff predominantly to health and social care continues and training is now underway. A clarification has been issued to elected members that the training will take place in the Gleneagles Day Centre, not at the Gleneagles Hotel. A buddy system has also been introduced for those individuals moving into health and social care so that they are not working on their own and are very clear about the tasks that they are undertaking. • The video recording of services at Perth Crematorium has been tested and is now in situ. This is a webcast which will allow families to participate. • The Registrars Service is now operating 7 days a week. • The National Helpline for non-Shielding Vulnerable Groups is now in place. • Over 900 volunteers are now formally registered to offer support across Perth and Kinross. Perth and Kinross, Dundee City and Angus Councils are working with a group of businesses pan-Tayside on how they might support us in terms of some of the essential services we need to deliver and are offering their staff in a volunteering capacity.
24 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR advised that a Care Home Action Plan was in place involving the Health and Social Care Partnership, Public Health, as well as the Care Inspectorate. Approximately two thirds of care homes in Perth and Kinross had been contacted so far by the Council in relation to general support and supplies of PPE. It was noted that the Council's guidance in relation to PPE had been recognised as good practice at national level. Following a query by Councillor Laing in relation to privately operated care homes, KR confirmed that whilst the Council issues specific guidance, it is the duty of the individual care home employer to undertake a risk assessment and manage the process as necessary. KR would seek any further update from the Chief Officer/Director – Integrated Health and Social Care. • KR confirmed that a further Children's Activity Centre was opening in the coming week at Aberfeldy, and increased provision was also being provided at North Inch Community Campus. • In terms of business grants, KR confirmed that as of the previous day, 2720 applications had been received and 2212 had been processed. Councillor McDade commented that there had been positive feedback at a national level on the PKC approach to business grants during the current crisis. • KR reported that the early release of some prisoners would commence from 30 April 2020. This was being co-ordinated by the Scottish Prison Service and would involve approximately 450 people across Scotland, with around 10 people in Perth and Kinross. • KR informed members that the Scottish Government had announced changes in the timescales for decisions by the Council on any school placing requests for session 2020/21 and any subsequent placing request appeals.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR informed members that a staff pulse survey had been issued yesterday to obtain feedback from all staff. • KR confirmed that as previously advised, Beechgrove House was now ready to be used as a step-down facility for patients being discharged from hospital who were not quite ready to return to their own homes. It was noted that this facility was not being used for any patients who currently were infected with Coronavirus. Following a suggestion by Councillor McDade, BR agreed to arrange further corporate communications around this at the appropriate point. Councillor Laing raised concern about any former Coronavirus patients moving to Beechgrove House, KR agreed to pass this to the Chief Officer/Director – Integrated Health and Social Care.
4 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR advised that the Deputy First Minister had set up a national Education Recovery Group that was co-chaired with COSLA to examine the process and timescales for pupils and staff returning to schools. • There had been approximately 7000 welfare calls made the previous week by staff to vulnerable people. • 4340 Perth and Kinross citizens had been identified for shielding, with 2860 who had spoken to the Council so far. Work was continuing on contacting people regarding essential food and pharmacy items. • The Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) Gold Command were monitoring the situation regarding care homes on a daily basis. • The approach taken by the Perth and Kinross HSCP in relation to the supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) had been recognised as good practice on a national basis. • KR advised that the Chief Officer Group (involving Council, Police Scotland and NHS Tayside senior staff) were now meeting every three weeks. • KR informed members that the early release of some prisoners was expected to commence this week, with 13 expected to be released in Perth and Kinross within the next four or five weeks. • KR advised that as of Friday 1 May, 2964 business grants had been received, 2788 had been processed and 2332 had been paid. An appeals process is being introduced locally which will take into account SG guidance; and an appropriate audit system is now in place. • A session with all elected members would be arranged shortly on the revenue and capital budget. In response to a query from Councillor Laing on whether charging for day care services was still continuing, KR agreed to investigate this further. • KR reported that the first virtual Planning and Development Management Committee the previous week had been a success, with a further meeting to be arranged at the end of May / beginning of June. It was agreed that a special Council should take place on 20 May with training for all members to take place in advance. The agenda for the meeting would include scrutiny of current operations, finance, question and answers for members, as well as the future of the Council. There may also be a need to consider some business in private. It was also agreed that a further business meeting of the Council would take place

	<p>in June. Virtual meetings of the Licensing Board, Licensing Committee and Local Review Body were also being investigated. Councillor Laing suggested that there was not a need for a formal recess period over the summer due to the current situation. KR advised that the position could be determined at the June Council meeting. KR further advised that Sheena Devlin and Karen Donaldson would also now be joining the weekly sounding board meetings. In relation to previous discussions on either the re-establishment of weekly Convener meetings or sounding boards involving representatives from all political groups on a service basis, KR advised that there was not a unanimous view amongst all political groups so she would shortly be making a decision on this in consultation with Gold Command.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BR reported that the V.E. day celebrations planned for 8 May had been cancelled. Pre-recorded online videos involving the Provost and Councillor Chris Ahern as Armed Forces Champion were being investigated.
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