

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee/PAG

Cabinet

Date of Committee

21 June 2001

Report Title

Foot & Mouth Disease

Summary

This consolidated report contains an update summary of activities arising from the FMD crisis together with the latest financial consequences.

For further information please contact:

Noel Hunter
 Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards
 Tel: 01926 412166
 John Deegan
 Director, Planning, Transport & Economic Strategy
 Tel: 01926 412022
 Oliver Winters
 Head of Financial Planning
 Tel: 01926 412441

Background papers

None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- Other Committees/PAG's
- Local Member(s)
- Other Elected Members
- Cabinet Member Councillor J Haynes – for information
(reports to the Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)
- Chief Executive Ian Caulfield – for information
- Legal David Carter – for information
- Finance
- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority

- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals

FINAL DECISION None

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee/PAG
- To Council
- To Cabinet
- To a PAG
- To an S & R Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

Cabinet - 21 June 2001

Foot & Mouth Disease

Report of the Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards

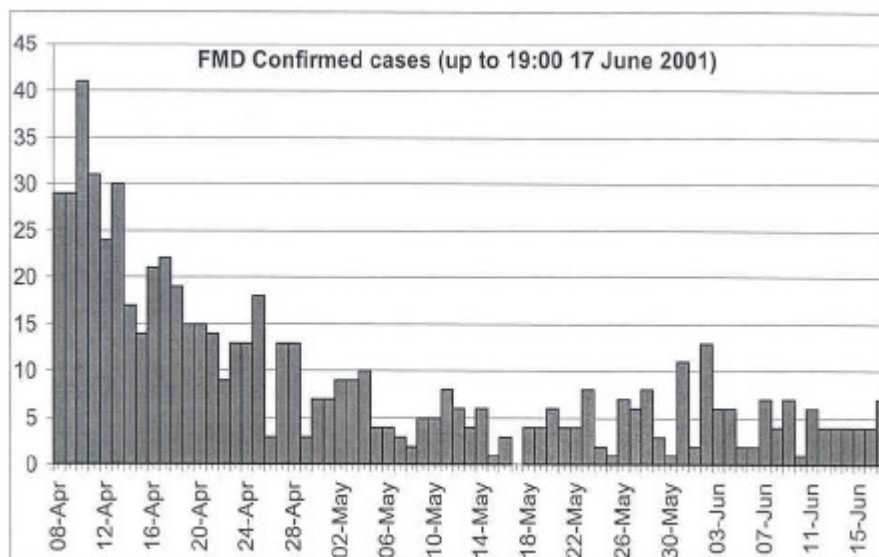
Recommendations

- That Members note the report and endorse the action taken.
- That further reports are brought to Cabinet only if notable developments occur.
- That a summary report of the crisis containing facts and figures from the County be prepared to support evidence to the proposed national enquiry.

Members will be updated on the present situation verbally at the meeting. Set out below are a number of significant developments which will be of particular interest. This report will be the last of the regular updates to Cabinet.

1 Report from the Director of Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards

Nationally a small number of cases continue to occur each day. Most recently a disease hot spot has occurred in Somerset.



The remaining 3 km restricted area, (affecting parts of Sambourne, Alcester and Coughton), arising from an infected place at Astwood Bank in Worcestershire, has been lifted. Now only a very small infected area is left on the western boundary. Several farms around Sambourne are under 'Form D' controls that prevent movement of livestock or use of footpaths across their land.

All animal movement remains under some form of licensing. This is keeping the Trading Standards Service very busy. All agencies involved are remaining vigilant.

Please see Appendix 1 for the timetable of events relating to Foot and Mouth Disease.

2 Report of the Director of Planning and Transport & Economic Strategy:

The majority of footpaths in the county were opened on 4 June. Following reduction of the remaining infected area in the west of the county, arrangements are being made to re-open the twenty paths affected on Friday, 22 June 2001. Two small infected areas remain, but this does not affect path re-openings other than the "no dogs in fields with cattle" line in the Walkers' Code which has been widely distributed. (See Appendix 2 for details of the Walkers' Code).

All paths closed by our Order will then be (legally) open. The only paths remaining closed are by Order of MAFF/DEFRA in the immediate vicinity of form D premises. (See Appendix 3 for definition of form D premises).

A £20,000 grant from the Countryside Agency has been received from the Rights of Way Recovery Fund and will cover 75% of the costs incurred in re-opening the remaining closed paths, displaying the new Walkers' Code, publicity and Web Site information.

Removal of 10,000 of our notices, countless home-made notices deterring access, chained and padlocked gates and other obstructions, overgrowth, etc, will be undertaken by a combination of resources, including PT&ES staff, parish councils, volunteer groups, local Ramblers groups and other walking clubs. Landowners own notices are being removed by PT&ES staff. Where rural paths co-exist with farm drives/accesses, farmers are being consulted regarding suitable wording for signs which make it clear that the right of way is open but also ensures security to their own premises.

3 Report of the County Treasurer

3.1 Financial Consequences

Departments are continuing to monitor additional costs associated with dealing with foot and mouth. Estimates of costs to date (covering both 2000/2001 and 2001/2002 to date) are shown in the following table:

Service	£	Nature of Costs
Education	19,000	Loss of income due to closure of Marle Hall (now re-opened but uptake is sluggish)
Emergency Planning	1,300	Sprays and protective equipment
Property Services	12,000	Small holdings loss of rent
PT&ES	33,000	Disinfectants, rangers costs, engineers costs and loss of income
Trading Standards	46,700	Supplies and services, transport and staffing
Total	112,000	

The above table does not include PT&ES costs associated with the reopening of public rights of way on the assumption that grant would be made available to meet these costs. The County Council has been informed that it can claim Rights of Way Recovery Fund Grant of up to £65,000. Any costs incurred above this amount will fall on the County Council.

A number of costs are, as yet, indeterminate. For example, although the major country parks opened again during the first week in April, it is possible that the Council may receive claims for compensation from businesses/tenants for the period when the parks were closed. Other areas where costs may materialise are in providing financial support to rural businesses and potential loss of contractual income on landscaping and environmental design work.

NOEL HUNTER
 Director, Libraries, Heritage & Trading Standards
 Shire Hall
 Warwick

20 June 2001

Foot and Mouth Disease

Timetable of Events

Date	Event
Tues 20th February	First case of foot and mouth disease confirmed in the UK (in Essex).
Fri 23rd February	Controlled area restrictions established in England and Wales.
Tues 27th February	Statutory powers put in place to allow local authorities to close footpaths and rights of way.
Wed 28th February	Warwickshire County Council close all Countryside Recreation Sites.
Wed 28th February	Infected area established in North Warwickshire following confirmation of foot and mouth case on a farm on the Leicestershire/Warwickshire Border.
Thur 1st March	Warwickshire County Council close all public footpaths and bridleways over and/or adjoining agricultural land, common land, woodland, unenclosed land and waste land in Warwickshire.
Fri 2nd March	Infected area established in South Warwickshire following confirmation of foot and mouth case on a farm on the Worcestershire/Warwickshire border.
Fri 2nd March	Controlled area restrictions in England and Wales extended until Friday 16th March
Mon 5th March	Warwickshire Trading Standards Service begin to issue licences for the movement of livestock from farm to slaughter
Sat 10th March	MAFF announce issue of licences for the movement of livestock on welfare grounds.
Fri 16th March	MAFF amend Part IV of the Foot and Mouth Disease order 1983 to clarify the restrictions which apply to Controlled areas and renew the restrictions in the GB Controlled area indefinitely.
Fri 16th March	MAFF issue guidance to the public on what to do and what not to do when visiting the countryside.

Sun 18th March	First confirmed case of Foot and Mouth in Warwickshire at Top Farm, Higham Lane, Weddington, Nuneaton. A 3km exclusion zone is placed around the farm. 250 cattle and 500+ sheep slaughtered and buried on site.
Tues 20th March	Deployment of army logistical support teams to Devon and Cumbria to assist MAFF
Thur 22nd March	MAFF announce the introduction of a scheme which is designed to pay for transport, slaughter and disposal of animals to address serious welfare problems that cannot be resolved by other means.
Fri 23rd March	Epidemiological Forecast reports that the outlook for FMD in Great Britain 2001 is for a very large epidemic. It will grow fast in the next few weeks and continue for many months. The number of cases will rise steeply with rapid expansion in the existing areas in spite of current controls. Estimates vary from 70 cases a day over the next two weeks to over 4000 cases by June 2001.
Mon 26th March	Confirmation of second case of foot and mouth disease in Nuneaton area. At Canal Farm, Tuttle Hill, Nuneaton, 99 cattle and 300 sheep are burned on site. This latest outbreak forms part of a cluster of five infected premises in that area three in Leicestershire, two in Warwickshire.
Thur 29th March	Warwickshire County Council re-open Draycote Water and Ryton Pools Country Parks
Mon 3rd April	Warwickshire County Council re-open part of Kingsbury Water Park
Tues 4th April	Pigs and sheep begin to arrive at a disposal site at Ufton for burial.
Sat 7th April	Part of the Stratford Greenway re-opens.
Mon 9th April	In his statement to the House, Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister reports that although it is still too early to predict the future course of the epidemic there are some encouraging signs. There are now 1134 confirmed cases of foot and mouth disease.
Tues 10th April	Warwickshire County Council announce the re-opening of some footpaths and bridleways.

Wed 11th April	Warwickshire Cabinet agree £100,000 package of support for small businesses affected by FMD.
Wed 11th April	Trading Standards Service raise concerns voiced by the local community concerning procedures at the Ufton Landfill Site to the Intervention Board. The Intervention Board responds positively.
Wed 18th April	Warwickshire County Council re-open Hartshill Hayes Country Park
Wed 18th April	UK Government scientists seek "significant" support from farmers before vaccinations to tackle foot-and-mouth can go ahead. Sir John Krebs, Chairman of the Food Standards Agency, advises Maff that meat and dairy products from vaccinated livestock could safely enter the food chain with no harmful effect on humans.
Wed 18th April	The range of animals that can be licensed for movement to slaughter is extended to include deer, bison, goats, buffalo and wild boar.
Fri 4th May	Government publish detailed guidance on how owners of rare breeds of flocks of sheep or herds of goats, and also owners of genuinely hefted flocks of sheep, in England and Wales, can apply for exemption from culls in contiguous areas or from 3km culls.
Mon 14th May	A Tidbury Green Livestock Keeper, receives a £4000 fine and is ordered to pay £858.75 costs after being found guilty before Stratford Magistrates of allowing his sheep to roam freely during the Foot and Mouth outbreak. John Charles of Norton Lane Tidbury Green, Solihull was investigated by officers from the Trading Standards Service following several complaints from residents of Preston Bagot in March 2001.
Thur 17th May	Infected area status in majority of the north of the county is lifted and reverts to a controlled area.
Mon 4th June	Following the publication of the latest guidance on the use of footpaths and bridleways by MAFF, Warwickshire County Council take the decision to re-open all paths outside of the remaining 3km restricted area (affecting part of Sambourne, Alcester and Coughton).

Thur 7th June	Removal of infected area status around Bishampton leads to a slight reduction in the size of the infected area in the west of the County.
Fri 8th June	The Government announce that a new Department, DEFRA, (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) will take over responsibility for co-ordinating action to eradicate FMD.
Sat 9th June	Removal of infected area status around Astwood Bank leads to a further reduction in the size of the infected area in the west of the County.
Sat 9th June	Due to the removal of infected area status around Astwood Bank, all remaining footpaths in Warwickshire are opened, except where MAFF have specifically closed them around a small number of farms which are still under restrictions.
Mon 18th June	The only remaining areas of Warwickshire with infected area status are a small triangle of land to the north-west of the county, west of the M42, and a narrow strip of the county to the south of Sambourne where it borders Worcestershire.

Public Footpaths and Bridleways

Warwickshire

Foot and Mouth Disease Precautions

Please take special care to protect the countryside from foot and mouth disease by following this Code

- **If you have handled cattle, sheep, goats or pigs in the last 7 days please stay off all other farmland.**
- Do not go near, and never touch, handle or feed livestock:
 - if you come across them unexpectedly, move away slowly; if necessary re-trace your route.
- Keep dogs on short leads where there are livestock.
- Do not leave any waste food or litter.
- Stay on the path and leave all gates as you find them.
- Use disinfectant where provided.
- Start your walk or ride with clean equipment, footwear and clothing.

This code remains in force whilst Foot and Mouth Disease affects England and Wales.

**For more information –
contact the Countryside Access Team on 01926 413422/29/30/32**

Public Footpaths and Bridleways

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Foot and Mouth Disease

Definition of Form D Premises

'Notice to owner or person in charge of animals exposed to infection or to occupier of premise where such animals are situated, imposing restrictions.' - 'No person shall move or cause or permit to be moved any animal into or out of the place to which the notice relates except under the authority of a licence granted by a veterinary inspector, or permit any animal to stray into or out of that place.'