



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)

Highway improvements Leatherhead

24th June 2009

KEY ISSUE – Highway improvements funded through Section 106 planning agreements for developments in Leatherhead.

SUMMARY – Local Committee approval is sought for highway improvement schemes in Leatherhead, funded by monies taken through planning mechanisms, known as Section 106 agreements. The schemes will improve pedestrian routes, cycle routes and signing within Leatherhead including links along Epsom Road and Randalls Road. Widening of Station Road is also proposed.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to :

- (i) approve the scheme shown on Annexe 3 for cycle and pedestrian links from Leatherhead Road to the town centre, including Knoll Roundabout.
- (ii) approve the scheme shown on Annexe 4 for cycle and pedestrian links on Randalls Road.
- (iii) approve the scheme shown on Annexe 5 for Station Approach.
- (iv) approve the accessibility improvements outlined in paragraph 3.
- (v) approve the scheme for road sign improvements outlined in paragraph 3.
- (vi) approve further investigation to develop proposals for a pedestrian and cycle scheme to link Leatherhead Station with Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Funding for highway improvements has been obtained in accordance with Section 106 agreements under the Town and Country Planning Acts. Section 106 agreements are negotiated between planning authorities and persons with an interest in a piece of land. These agreements are usually linked to planning applications and aim to help make development acceptable within a community. In addition obligations can also be secured through unilateral undertakings by developers.
- 1.2 Transportation Development Control is the Group within Surrey County Council that negotiates and receives funds for highways from Section 106 agreements or unilateral agreements. Considerable funds have been obtained for highways improvements in Leatherhead and details are given in ANNEXE 1.
- 1.3 Proposals and schemes for various locations within Leatherhead have been progressed and this report summarises progress. Details of each of the schemes is provided in ANNEXE 2. It is considered prudent at this stage to ensure that the Local Committee is in agreement to the work being progressed before any further funding is committed.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Considerable funds have been provided for highway improvements in Leatherhead. Use of the funds is constrained by agreements, which specify timescales of expenditure. Considerable progress has been made and it is necessary to maintain continue the work to gain maximum benefit from the funds. The options suggested are all being progressed with the available budgets.

3 OPTIONS

- 3.1 A scheme for a cycle and pedestrian link from Leatherhead Road to the town centre, including improvements at Knoll Roundabout has been designed ready for implementation. The scheme incorporates a footway link from Knoll Roundabout to the pedestrian bridge on By-Pass Road, a shared pedestrian/cycle path on the northern side of Epsom Road and improvements to pedestrian facilities around the Knoll Roundabout. ANNEXE 3 shows the location of the scheme.
- 3.2 A scheme for a cycle and pedestrian link from Cleeve Road from Leatherhead station and Kingston Road has been designed. The scheme will provide an off-carriageway cycling facility to the business areas. ANNEXE 4 shows the location of the scheme.
- 3.3 A scheme to provide a widening to Station Approach has been designed. A dedicated left turn lane will help relieve pressure within the one-way system and allow an improved cycling and pedestrian facility. ANNEXE 5 shows the location of the scheme.

- 3.4 Accessibility improvements for Leatherhead have been progressed to provide safer crossing points in accordance with approved standard details.
- 3.5 It is proposed that road signs throughout the Leatherhead town centre will be reviewed and improved for the benefit of all road users.
- 3.6 It is proposed that further investigation be carried out to develop proposals for a pedestrian and cycle scheme to link Leatherhead Station with Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

4 CONSULTATIONS

- 4.1 The schemes have been progressed in consultation with the local County Councillor, Surrey Police and local interested groups.
- 4.2 Information on progress has been included in reports to the Local Committee.
- 4.3 Consultations will continue and regular updates will be provided to the Local Committee.

5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The County Council has received some £1,197,000 that must be used for highway improvements in Leatherhead, in accordance with agreements. The details of the funds are given in ANNEXE 1.
- 5.2 Highway schemes are being progressed to use the funds in accordance with the agreements. ANNEXE 2 gives details of schemes being progressed to a total estimated cost of £1,136,000. Expenditure will be monitored to ensure that schemes are achieved within the budget.

6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The schemes will provide safer road crossing points, designed with dropped kerbs and tactile paving.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None significant.

8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Highway improvements are desirable within Leatherhead and funding is available to progress schemes. The funding provides for various highway improvements with particular emphasis on pedestrian and cycling issues. The schemes also allow some local highways related issues to be addressed without recourse to the other budgets.

- 8.2 The recommendations allow for progression of a full programme of schemes that should utilise the bulk of the currently available funds.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Approval of the recommendations will permit work on the schemes to continue in accordance with the constraints and timescales imposed within Section 106 agreements..
- 9.2 The works for Knoll Roundabout, Epsom Road and Bypass Road are programmed for the next few months, during school summer holidays, to minimise impact on traffic.

10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Provided approval is given by the Local Committee, the schemes will continue to be progressed. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and local County Councillor will be kept informed of progress. Reports to the Local Committee will include details of progress on the schemes.
- 10.2 The works for Knoll Roundabout, Epsom Road and Bypass Road are programmed to commence at the end of July.
- 10.3 Two weeks prior to the intended start of the works at Knoll Roundabout, advance warning signs will be placed on each leg of the roundabout to advise of the works.

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Version No. Date: Time: Initials: No of annexes: