KEY ISSUE
To obtain Committee approval to the County Council becoming a party to the bus shelter agreement currently being negotiated by the borough council with the preferred supplier, JC Decaux.

SUMMARY
The Borough Council has retained the function of providing bus shelters on the highway, and has received tenders from the two main providers for a new agreement to replace the existing Adshel agreement, which has now expired. From that tender process the Borough has selected the firm, JC Decaux, to provide and maintain bus shelters over a period of 15 - 20 years. The contract will provide at least 40 shelters, some with advertising panels, including their maintenance, cleaning and replacement due to damage etc. The shelters will be provided free of charge in return for the company being able to sell advertising space on some of the shelters.

This Local Committee considered the basis of the agreement with JC Decaux at its meeting on 21st July 2003 and approved progression in relation to the size and location of adverts.

Subsequent to that meeting the legal issues have been taken forward through the Borough and County Legal departments and it has transpired that the borough council, although taking a valuable lead in the negotiations, cannot enter into the agreement with JC Decaux without Surrey County Council also being party to the agreement since it is the County Council who legally act as the Highway Authority in certain aspects of the agreement.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS
The Committee is asked to agree

1. that the Local Transportation Director be authorised to sign the Legal Agreement with JC Decaux on behalf of Surrey County Council as a co-signatory along with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Borough Council has received tenders from the two main providers of bus shelters for a new agreement to replace the existing Adshel agreement, which has now expired. From this tender process they have selected their preferred supplier, that being JC Decaux.

1.2 The 21st July 2003 meeting of this Local Committee considered aspects of the legal agreement being negotiated between the Borough Council and JC Decaux. These related to:

- The location of bus shelters - with a decision to delegate powers to the Local Transportation Director to agree with the Borough on an individual basis.
- The exclusivity of advertising – with a decision to approve the Local Transportation Director reaching agreement with the bus shelter provider for a limited advertising exclusion zone of up to 20m.

2. THE LEGAL AGREEMENT

2.1 The Legal Agreement is being taken forward by the Borough Council with the involvement of the County Council Legal Service department. This ongoing process has highlighted the need for the County Council to be party to the agreement since the Borough Council cannot legally act as the Highway Authority in certain aspects of the agreement due to the legislation and warranties involved.

2.2 The Legal Agreement has been reviewed by the County Council Legal Service Department who have confirmed that it is drafted in an acceptable form for the County Council to become a co-signatory.

3. TENDER PROCUREMENT PROCESS

3.1 Since the Borough Council completed the contract tendering process under their local standing orders for procurement a check has been made as to whether the County Council can enter into an agreement for which another organisation had completed the procurement process. The County Council's Contract & Performance Management team has confirmed that this arrangement is acceptable.

4. CONSISTENCY WITH BUS SERVICE PROJECTS

4.1 The conclusion of a new agreement to supply and maintain bus shelters in this district is key for the following ongoing projects:

4.2 FastWay

4.2.1 At the meeting of the County Council's Executive on 9 December, the Executive approved the upfront funding of the agreed in principal Section 106 contributions to cover the core route works needed for Fastway at Longbridge roundabout and Massets Road.

4.2.2 Construction is due to start in January 2005, with advanced stats planned for early summer 2004.
4.2.3 The routing of Fastway has been confirmed with Metrobus. An interim Fastway service will commence on 1 September 2005, replacing Gatwick Direct. The full service to the NE and NW new housing sectors will start operating as the proposed new housing becomes occupied.

4.3 Quality Bus Partnership

4.3.1 An area Quality Bus Partnership has been developed between Surrey County Council, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and the local bus operating companies.

4.3.2 For 2004/05 Passenger Transport Group has successfully secured £600,000 LTP funding to assist in the delivery of the improvements necessary to implement measures identified through the QBP, including improvements to the quality of passenger facilities and the operation of Redhill Bus Station; better integration between Redhill Rail Station and Redhill Bus Station; area and route based marketing and publicity; promotion and development of Mobility Management to make people aware of what public transport is available within the QBP area; better integration of public transport with cycling and walking in the QBP area; Traffic management initiatives, including bus stop clearways, bus priority measures and Intelligent Traffic Signals (ITS); and E-information, including journey planning facilities and Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI). This work builds upon the comprehensive bus stop replacement programme undertaken over the last two years – over 300 bus stops have now been replaced in Reigate & Banstead.

4.3.3 A major component of the QBP will be the development and implementation of Suretime, Surrey’s RTPI system, on bus services in the Redhill, Reigate and Horley areas. This is a central element of the proposed QBP. It aims to provide more reliable information for all bus stops via on-street displays, the website or SMS messaging. This will encourage more people to use buses more often as they gain confidence in bus reliability, punctuality and predictability. With the introduction of Intelligent Traffic Signals, bus journeys will be faster and more reliable. The bus operator will be able to use the management information to plan services and produce more reliable timetables.

4.3.4 Through the QBP, Metrobus is prepared to fund the equipping of buses for RTPI, with the County Council providing passenger information displays at bus stops and internet accessible RTPI. The total investment to implement RTPI is estimated at £950,000, funded over two years.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The bus shelter contract has no direct cost to either the Borough Council or the County Council. The cost of providing, maintaining and cleaning the bus shelters is carried by the provider, JC Decaux.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 There are already a number of bus shelters in need of repair and many which require renewal, especially to accommodate the real time passenger information equipment. This contract will provide new shelters at no cost to the Borough or the County for the next 15-20 years, and this represents a considerable benefit to both authorities.
6.2 The legal agreement requires Surrey County Council to become party to the agreement in its role as Highway Authority.

6.3 The delivery of high quality bus shelters will significantly support the FastWay, Quality Bus Partnership and Real Time Passenger Information projects as well as improving the general attractiveness of bus travel for the whole community.