



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)

TRAFFIC PRESSURES IN FARNHAM: AN UPDATE

18 JUNE 2010

KEY ISSUE

To provide the Committee with a further update on progress following the presentation of a petition at the meeting of the Committee held on 11 September 2009.

UPDATE

1. A petition was presented by Ms Gillian Hargreaves in which the signatories expressed the view that the Wrecclesham Relief Road and a Farnham Western By-Pass would help to alleviate traffic congestion in Farnham. There is a concern that proposals for increased housing in Church Crookham and Bordon would further exacerbate the situation. The petitioners urged the County Council to promote the case for the highways projects referred to at regional level. It was believed that funding associated with the proposed eco-town at Bordon might be available for the requested new roads and the petitioners further requested that the County Council should open negotiations with Hampshire County Council to prepare a joint application for funds.
2. The Committee received a response at its meeting on 4 December 2009 and agreed that, in view of the likely pressures emanating from the proposed large-scale developments in Hampshire, it would be appropriate to revisit the feasibility of a Farnham Western By-Pass and that the Chairman should request the Chief Executive of the County Council to pursue urgent discussions with the relevant councils to initiate an investigation into such a scheme.
3. A number of strands of activity have now been pursued and this report provides an update on progress made.
4. Recognising that a joint approach with neighbouring authorities, possibly backed with some developer funding, might enable a more compelling case to be made for Regional Transport Board support for major schemes in the area, the Chief Executive of the County Council has promoted initial contacts

with Hampshire County Council. As a result an officer meeting with Waverley Borough Council and Hampshire County Council took place on 30 April 2010 to discuss the implications of the proposed development at Bordon/Whitehill on the Farnham area. Representatives of East Hampshire District Council, which as planning authority holds the key to the development proposals, were invited but did not attend. However, work is now being taken forward to set up a joint member meeting between the four councils to receive a briefing and discuss concerns.

5. In relation to air quality and other traffic matters, a workshop for a range of stakeholders was held in early 2010 and a joint report is being prepared both for this Committee and Waverley Borough Council's Executive to recommend a prioritized action plan as and when funding is available. It is envisaged that this report will be available for the next meeting of the Local Committee. The Committee is also informed that, following its application agreed at the 12 March 2010 meeting, the sum of £5000 has been awarded to the Local Highways Team from the County Council's Climate Change fund to take forward delivery restrictions in central Farnham with a review to reducing the pollution caused by waiting vehicles.
6. Pressure from Heavy Goods Vehicles have been identified as a major cause of congestion and poor air quality in Farnham and other areas within the borough. An update on freight matters is attached at **Annex 1** and sets out proposals to establish a Freight Quality Partnership. It is also proposed that the Local Task Groups be requested to monitor lorry routing problems throughout the borough.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to:

- (i) Note the update provided above.
- (ii) Support in principle the establishment of a Freight Quality Partnership for Farnham and ask officers to take forward the necessary arrangements.
- (iii) Ask the Local Task Groups to monitor lorry routing problems in their areas and develop possible solutions.

REPORT BY:

David North (Local Committee and Partnership Officer)
01483 517530
d.north@surreycc.gov.uk

Peter Hitchings (Freight Officer)
03456 009 009
peter.hitchings@surreycc.gov.uk

Mick Avery (Network Management Group Manager)
03456 009 009
mick.avery@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None