



Farnham Board

Items 3-6 Progress Report

17 January 2025



Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting

Items 3-6

DATE: 17 January 2025

REPORT OF: TIM OLIVER – BOARD CHAIRMAN

LEAD OFFICER: ELAINE MARTIN – PROGRAMME MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROGRESS UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This paper summarises the activity and progress achieved since the October 2024 Farnham Board, including any matters of note arising during this period, and outlines the activities which will be carried out ahead of the next Farnham Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Notes programme projects completed,
2. Notes the progress update provided; and
3. Notes the ongoing update to the programme schedule and the associated revisions to forecast milestones.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure the Farnham Board (Sponsoring Group) is aware of the programme progress to date and has visibility of future Programme activity.

Programme Projects Completed

Project	Element
Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision developed. • Optimised Infrastructure Plan developed, consulted and endorsed. • Medium term interventions sifted into allocated projects.
Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy completed and approved. • Artwork designed and approved. • Totems manufactured. • Totems installed.
A325 reclassification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study and surveys completed. • Detailed design approved. • Construction completed.
Re-routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study and surveys completed. • Traffic Regulation Order advertised and finalised. • Detailed design completed. • Construction completed. • Design of Hampshire County Council (HCC) signs completed. • ANPR camera vehicle deployed. • Installation of additional traffic enforcement camera signs.
20mph Limits/Zones and Speed restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility completed. • Detailed design completed for the three zones. • Construction completed for the three zones (Town Centre, Weydon Lane and Upper Hale Road). • Traffic Regulation Order legal for the three areas.
Borelli/Riverside Cycle Improvement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with developer on redesign of the connecting pedestrian and cycling bridge. • Ecological, topographical and arboriculture surveys completed. • Detailed design completed.
Local Cycling and Walking Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farnham LCWIP report completed. • Priority cycle/walk routes agreed for further development. • Funding allocated to progress feasibility designs (LCWIP stage 2). • WBC proposed additions/updates to LCWIP report put forward to WBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Resources committee. • Initial phase priority routes from the LCWIP plan agreed for taking forward to stage 2 feasibility design. • Updates/additions to the Farnham LCWIP report put forward by WBC and SCC have been agreed for inclusion within the report addendum. Final item in discussion with Cllrs before proceeding.
Water Lane Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful Waverley Community Infrastructure Levy bid of £404k. • Detail design completed. • Construction completed. • RSA3 undertaken.
Town Centre Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility and initial surveys completed. • Future town visualisation and virtual reality completed. • Public consultation. • Review and design of East Street developer works. • Strategic modelling completed. • Surrey Coalition of Disabled People site visit. • Business questionnaire completed. • Successful £3.25m Waverley Community Infrastructure Levy bid. • Traffic Regulation Order for parking and road layout changes advertised and finalised. • Engagement with WBC and SCC Heritage Teams.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys (basements, CCTV, Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) and paving coring) completed. • Detailed design completed. • Road Safety Audit completed. • Compound agreement in place for Riverside 3 carpark. • Phasing plan briefing shared with councillors and officers, and a summary of plan made available online to the general public. • Pre-construction communications.
Farnham A31 Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility design completed. • Initial public consultation. • Submission of Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) to Department for Transport (DfT) for funding. • Approval by Treasury to commence Outline Business Case (OBC) development.
Western and Wrecclesham Bypasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of policy review completed.
Wrecclesham Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation removed. • Highway signing enhanced. • Bridge painted to improve conspicuousness. • Feasibility report on longer-term solutions completed.
A31 Speed Management Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed limit reduction completed.

Activities carried out since the previous Farnham Board

20mph Limits/Zones and Speed Restrictions

- Construction completed for Upper Hale Road 20mph speed limit and traffic calming measures.

Borelli/Riverside Cycle Improvement Scheme

- Early contractor engagement for the construction of Riverside Walk (northern section).
- Completion of detailed design including lighting.
- Temporary closure and diversion route published.
- Works Comms (eg letter drop) published.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- Initial phase priority routes from the LCWIP plan agreed for taking forward to stage 2 feasibility design. Project being prepared to commence work in the New Year.
- Updates/additions to the Farnham LCWIP report put forward by WBC and SCC have been agreed for inclusion within the report addendum. Final item in discussion with Cllrs before proceeding.

Re-routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)

- Continued deployment of ANPR camera vehicle.
- Section 8 Highways Act agreement approved by HCC legal team and currently with SCC legal team. This allows SCC to place advance HGV restriction warning signs in the HCC area.

Water Lane Roundabout

- Post-construction monitoring.
- Post-construction safety audit (RSA3) undertaken.

Town Centre Improvements

- Extensive early contractor engagement.
- Agreement with Waverley Borough Council for compound in Riverside 3 carpark.
- Published phasing plan, confirming specific dates for Phases 2-4 (up to August 2025).
- Pre-construction communications including:

- Materials prepared for Farnham Christmas events, now displayed in Farnham Town Hall.
- Website updates including Phasing Plan and FAQs.
- Meetings and drop-ins with businesses.
- Published article in Farnham Herald.

Farnham A31 Corridor

- Pre-OBC activities to update critical parts of the Business Case since the SOBC was submitted in November 2021. This includes a cost-effective review and validation of the outcomes of the SOBC and identify key steps required to proceed to OBC.

Activity up until the next Farnham Board

20mph Limits/Zones and Speed restrictions

- Post-construction road safety audit and monitoring.

Borelli/Riverside Cycle Improvement Scheme

- Start construction of Riverside Walk.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- Stage 2 programme; feasibility design/development of initial phase priority cycle/walk schemes to commence.
- Farnham LCWIP report update/addendum for completion and publishing alongside the main body strategic LCWIP plan.

Re-routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)

- Completion of Section 8 agreement.
- Works order placed and programmed for HGV restriction warning signs to be sited in HCC area.
- Continued deployment of camera car.

Water Lane Roundabout

- Address actions identified in the RSA3.

Town Centre Improvements

- Enabling works including compound set up.
- Commence construction works, starting with Phase 2 (temporary works on The Borough).
- Advanced communication with residents and businesses through SCC Works Comms.
- Communications including posting banners in the town centre, Meet the Contractor event, contribution to Farnham Residents Guide, letter drops and signage for early phases.

Farnham A31 Corridor

- Programming activities required for OBC development.
- Ongoing discussions with DfT and Transport for the South East.

Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses

- Ongoing review of scheme viability including environmental impact and cost.

Key Milestones

The key milestone summary of the Programme schedule is provided in Table 1.

Table 1 – Programme Milestones

Project	Milestone	Current Forecast	Status/Comments
Rerouting of HGVs	HCC signage installation	Spring 25	Additional signage on HCC land being installed in spring 2025.
Removing A-road category status	Construction complete		
Wayfinding Strategy	Construction complete		
20mph Speed Limits	Construction complete		
Borelli/Riverside Cycle Improvement Scheme	Construction starts	Jan 25	
LCWIP	Feasibility design start	Jan 25	Stage 2 feasibility design priority routes being prepared to commence.
Water Lane	Construction complete		
Town Centre Improvements	Construction starts	Feb 25	Enabling works in Jan/Feb 25 with construction starting in Feb.
Farnham A31 Corridor		TBC	DfT have confirmed the Farnham A31 Corridor SOBC has been successful, given the delay, the programme will be reprofiled.
Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses		TBC	Review of scheme viability.
North and South Farnham Studies		TBC	Review following town centre modelling outcomes.

Key Programme Risks

The current key risks for the Programme are provided in Table 2. These risks are actively managed through the Programme risk management approach.

Table 2 – Programme Risks

Risk title	Risk description
Inflation	Due to current uncertain economic environment, inflation is likely to impact programme costs.
Funding Availability Programme Wide	Risk of lack of funding available to deliver the full programme.
Alignment with evolving central government policy	Due to the recent change in Government, there is increased number of changes to governmental policy which may affect the business case(s) and scheme viability due to changes in political priority. Additional time and cost impact due to reshaping of existing business case and overall programme to suit new requirements.
Scope Creep	As a result of additional work being added to the programme, there is a risk that additional work may reduce the funding available for other projects and schemes within the Farnham Infrastructure Programme. Finances for the programme are highly constrained.

Risk management and implications

The Board has no statutory powers and as such any decisions requiring approval by the responsible authorities, in this case Surrey County Council, will have individual risk assessments.

Financial and value for money implications

The cost and value for money in respect of the works will be identified within the Surrey County Council Report.

Section 151 officer commentary

As proposals are developed some may require Surrey County Council approval, individual S151 approvals will be sought.

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer

The Board has no executive powers, therefore any decisions made would require Surrey County Council to follow its own legal advice and its approval procedures.

Equalities and diversity

A Programme-level Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in August 2021. This was approved by the Programme Team at the September 2021 Programme Board and indicated that there are currently no substantive concerns associated with the Programme’s proposals based upon the level of information available.

Other implications

There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

What happens next

FIP activity will continue in line with the summary provided above.

Contact Officer:

Elaine Martin
Programme Manager
Elaine.Martin@surreycc.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank