

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)



DATE: 5 March 2014

LEAD OFFICER: Mark Borland, Group Manager (Surrey Highways)

SUBJECT: Operation Horizon 5 Year Carriageway Maintenance Plan

DIVISION: ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report records the progress made in the first year of the 5-year carriageway investment maintenance programme, any changes to the year one programme and the success of the countywide Operation Horizon project to date. Progress of the supporting surface treatment programme of roads in Mole Valley that have been carried out this financial year is also reported.

It sets out the proposed Operation Horizon roads within Mole Valley for the year two programme (financial year 2014/15), along with the remaining approved roads to be completed in years three to five (2015 – 2018).

**RECOMMENDATIONS:****The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to note:**

- (i) The success of the countywide 5-year programme in year one
- (ii) The progress of Operation Horizon roads, Surface Treatment roads, and changes in year one in Mole Valley in **Annex 1**.
- (iii) The proposed programme of Operation Horizon roads for Mole Valley for year two (2014/15) and the remaining approved roads to be undertaken in years three to five (2015-2018) listed in **Annex 1**.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 In tandem with majority of local highway authorities, Surrey's roads are now deteriorating at a faster rate than ever before.
- 1.2 In 2012 the AA published results of a year-long study and expressed serious concern about the state of Britain's roads following a succession of heavy rain, flooding, snow and ice. It concluded that nearly one fifth of the UK network require urgent attention over the next five years, with an estimated cost of up to £10bn to deliver the necessary maintenance.
- 1.3 Radical and urgent action is therefore required to meet residents' expectations for road condition. Consequently over the past 18 months Surrey Highways has been working with its contractors, UK research laboratories and senior

stakeholders to develop a new innovative approach to highway road maintenance.

- 1.4 The outcome of this exercise was Operation Horizon, a new targeted 5-year countywide investment programme for carriageway maintenance that will significantly increase both the scale and scope of highway repair.
- 1.5 In February 2013, Cabinet approved the £100m Maintenance programme. The Horizon project will deliver 16%-20% saving on existing contract rates, enabling £16m- £20m to be re-invested in Surrey's roads. This will enable a total investment programme of nearly **£120m** to replace the worst 500km (10%) of Surrey roads. The start of the 5-year Horizon project (year one) commenced in April 2013.
- 1.6 For Mole Valley in particular, the new programme will result in £10m being invested in the local road network and will enable 65km of road (12% of local network) to be reconstructed.
- 1.7 On 24 June 2013 the Local Committee (Mole Valley) formally approved the roads in Mole Valley to be resurfaced or reconstructed over the 5-year investment period.
- 1.8 The approved roads in Mole Valley are listed **Annex 1**. This details the progress and successes of the Horizon programme to date, any changes to the proposed year one with reasons, the programme for year two roads commencing April 2014, and the remaining roads to be treated in years three to five (2015 - 2018). It also updates progress of the roads in Mole Valley programmed for surface treatment in year one that extend the life of the carriageway which supplement the Horizon maintenance programme.

## **2. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 2.1 The investment programme will be fully funded by Surrey Highways Medium Term Plan and no financial contribution is required from the local committee budget.
- 2.2 It is, however, recognised that the fixed five year investment programme will reduce local committee flexibility to promote future maintenance schemes as petitioned by residents.
- 2.3 The scale and scope of investment programme is only sustainable if programme changes are limited, thus Surrey Highways will not be able, over the project period, to delivery new schemes not previously identified in **Annex 1**.
- 2.4 Consequently there could be increased pressure on local committee allocation to respond to residents' petitions to re-surface roads not already identified in **Annex 1**.

## **3. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 3.1 Improved road maintenance will support all travelling commuters and minority stakeholders.

#### **4. LOCALISM:**

- 4.1 The investment proposal will further support localism. Not only have local communities directly influenced the programme, it will also enable communities to have a clearer understanding of Surrey Highways “Level of Service” in regards to major repair and a fuller appreciation of the longer term programme.
- 4.2 This appreciation will enable the programme to more effectively co-ordinate with local priorities and support wider initiatives, for example, delivering re-surfacing schemes at the same time as new safety crossings.

#### **5. CONCLUSION :**

- 5.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

#### **6. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 6.1 Officers will continue to progress delivery of approved roads under the Operation Horizon investment maintenance programme.
- 6.2 Officers will provide an annual report confirming progress in delivering year two schemes programmed to be undertaken in 2014/15.

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**Consulted:****Annexes:**

Annex One\_ Operation Horizon Investment Programme \_ Mole Valley

**Sources/background papers:**

- Environment & Transport Select Committee Reports\_ November 2013
  - Cabinet Report\_ February 2013
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