

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 9 JUNE 2014

LEAD OFFICER: MARC WOODALL – TRAVEL SMART ENGAGEMENT
MANAGERSUBJECT: TRAVEL SMART BUS CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS AND
PROGRAMME UPDATEDIVISION: REDHILL WEST AND MEADVALE; REDHILL EAST;
MERSTHAM AND BANSTEAD SOUTH; REIGATE**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

In June 2012, Surrey County Council was successful in securing an award of £14.3 million in grant funding from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). This is in addition to the award of £3.9 million LSTF Key Component secured in July 2011.

Both grants are for the period up to 31 March 2015 and jointly form the Surrey Travel SMART programme. As part of the Surrey Travel SMART programme, a total of £4.8million has been allocated for sustainable travel improvements in Redhill / Reigate.

This report provides an update to the committee on the progress of the Travel SMART programme in Redhill and Reigate and asks members to consider a number of bus corridor improvements, improving bus reliability and facilities available to users.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Reigate & Banstead) is asked to :

- (i) Agree to the bus corridor improvements highlighted in Annexes A to D
- (ii) Note the progress made in the Travel SMART programme to date and more detailed plans for the financial year 2014/15

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report recommends that the Local Committee approve the four bus corridor improvements included in this report as **Annexes A to D** which are designed to improve bus reliability and the experience for bus users in Redhill and Reigate. These improvements meet the aims of the LSTF programme by improving travel choices for residents.

The committee is asked to note the ongoing progress for the Travel SMART programme which was approved by Reigate and Banstead Local Committee in March 2014.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Surrey County Council has been successful in securing £18.2 million from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to deliver the Surrey Travel SMART programme. £3.9 million was awarded in July 2011 with a further £14.3 million awarded in June 2012 as part of the large bid of £16 million. The aim of the fund is to deliver sustainable travel measures that support economic growth and carbon reduction. A total of £4.8 million of the large bid funding is allocated for sustainable travel improvements in Redhill and Reigate.
- 1.2 The items in the report have been discussed and scrutinised at the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee LSTF task group. The task group has provided local knowledge and detail on the bus corridor improvements, allowing revisions to be made and some proposals substantially changed or removed from the programme.

2. ANALYSIS:

2.1 Bus Corridor Improvements

2.2 As part of the Travel SMART programme, improvements are being made to priority bus corridors throughout Redhill and Reigate. This programme of improvements covers c.90 bus stops and includes the installation of new raised kerbing to enable step free access, formalising bus cages, increasing bus stop waiting areas, resurfacing and for higher usage stops, improved travel information, bus shelters and the installation of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) screens. These improvements will both improve the experience for passengers and contribute to improvement journey time reliability for bus operators, reducing delay and helping ensure residents can travel with greater confidence that their bus services will be running on time.

2.3 Construction of these improvements commencing in the final week or April 2014 and is a rolling programme due to complete in November 2014.

2.4 Included in Annexes A – D there are more substantial improvements for which this report seeks approval from the Local Committee.

2.5 Travel SMART Programme Update

2.6 Community funding

2.7 Tamsin Ward has taken over from Harris Vallianatos as community funding officer in Redhill and Reigate for 2014/15. As with last year, there will be £200,000 in total to be allocated equally between the two wards of Redhill West and Merstham. In each area, £60,000 will be available for large grants (up to £10,000) and £30,000 has been again been allocated for small grants (up to £3,000).

2.8 Large grants will continue to be awarded at two community event days where local residents will be able to vote for their favourite projects. In order to streamline the small grant application process, two community panels will be formed, made up of at least six representatives from the local community and

given the task of distributing the awards. The panels will meet at least four times between June and March to oversee two rounds of funding.

2.9 After a review of the community funding process from last year, the application forms have now been merged into one form for all applications in order to streamline the application process. All community voting events will be held before Christmas 2014 due to time constraints near the end of the LSTF programme in March 2015. Minor changes have been made to the application form and criteria in order to make them as clear and easy to use as possible for groups applying for funding.

2.10 Business Travel Forum

2.11 On 7 May 2014, a sustainable travel road show was held at Canon in Reigate featuring electric and folding bikes, an eco driver simulator and plenty of travel advice from Metrobus and the Travel SMART team. Overall, 48 people attended the event (around 300 on site) with a number of pledges to start cycling or drive more frugally. There will be another road show at the Town Hall in the summer.

2.12 Brompton Dock cycle hire service is due to be installed at Reigate station at the end of May 2014 with a go-live date of mid June. Southern Rail agreed to provide matched funding as well as the installation of new lighting and a camera. Additionally, businesses will be able to take advantage of a free membership offer in Redhill starting in June.

2.13 In partnership with Metrobus, Travel SMART will be offering a week's free bus travel in the summer for employees of members of the Redhill Business Forum. Preparations are almost complete and a launch date will be set in June.

2.14 To promote the Co-Wheels car club, member businesses are now able to take advantage of free membership and up to £250 of driver credit.

2.15 A scheme to install 'Switch off your engine' signs at Reigate level crossing has run into issues with suitable locations for the signage. A joint review by the Travel SMART Team and Highways is currently underway and a list of possible options is expected in the next 2-3 weeks.

2.16 The search for a suitable site for a public electric charging point has resulted in discussions with Donyngs Sports Centre. A meeting has been arranged to agree a location.

2.17 Wayfinding

2.18 Final designs have been completed, and a first prototype sign will have been produced by the date of this committee. Subject to satisfactory prototyping, the system will proceed to full manufacture, with the first signs ready for installation in September 2014.

3. OPTIONS:

3.1 Greater discussion on the detail of this committee report has been discussed, refined and changed at the LSTF task group. The report refers to the LSTF programme funded via the DfT

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The bus improvements both considered within this programme, and being delivered by the programme overall have been designed in consultation with local bus operators who have provided a wealth of information regarding current problems and potential improvements. Bus operators have confirmed that these improvements will contribute to improving the reliability of their services and the experience of bus passengers in the area.
- 4.2 Greater scrutiny on the Travel SMART programme is provided by the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee LSTF task group. The overall LSTF programme was presented to the public during a series of public exhibitions in Spring 2012, and specific measures, such as the Wayfinder mapping programme, have been subject to more detailed stakeholder engagement.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The business case for the Travel SMART bid included a financial section that does not form part of this report and was approved by the DfT.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 The major elements of the LSTF programme have been subject to Equality Impact Assessments. These documents are published on the Surrey County Council website and can be found by clicking on the following link:
<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/your-council/equality-and-diversity/Ensuring-our-decisions-are-fair/completed-equality-impact-assessments/completed-equality-impact-assessments-t>

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The Travel SMART programme was designed with Localism in mind. The Reigate and Banstead Local Committee have decision making powers relating to the programme. Furthermore, elements of the programme such as the Community funding and Business engagement use Localism tools to encourage localised decision making, and seek to increase local participation in the programme.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report

Public Health	Set out below
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8.1 Sustainability implications

The central aims of the Travel SMART Programme are to encourage the uptake of sustainable transport, enabling economic growth and reducing carbon emissions. The measures included in the Travel SMART programme therefore have positive sustainability outcomes.

8.2 Public Health implications

There are some direct positive implications to public health arising from this report, including the installation of signs encouraging people to switch of their engines at Reigate Station's level crossing, improving air quality and The Travel SMART programme is making significant investment in providing new infrastructure and promoting active travel such as walking and cycling. Evidence suggests that investment in these schemes have a proportionate benefit in overall public health. Walking promotions in particular are being linked with the Surrey County Council Public Health team's 'Walk for Life' campaign.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

9.1 The Local Committee is asked to consider the bus corridor improvements outlined in Annexes A – D, designed to make improvements to bus reliability and improve the passenger experience whilst waiting for and on the bus itself.

9.2 The Committee is asked to :

- (i) Agree to the bus corridor improvements highlighted in Annexes A to D
- (ii) Note the progress made in the Travel SMART programme to date and more detailed plans for the financial year 2014/15

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 If members agree to the recommendation, the bus corridor improvements will be timetabled into the LSTF construction programme and will be completed by November 2014.

10.2 Task group members will be kept up to date with progress of infrastructure works throughout the remainder of the LSTF programme.

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Consulted:

Reigate and Banstead LSTF task group

Surrey County Council and Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Officers

Local Bus Operators

Annexes:

Annex A – Albury Road Bus Stop

Annex B – Gordon Road Bus Stop

Annex C – Park Road East

Annex D – Brighton Road Bus Stop

Sources/background papers:

- LSTF Large Bid Document
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