

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2014

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER

SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL



<p><u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u></p> <p>This report provides an update on the 2014/15 programme of minor highway works funded by this committee as well as Section 106 (developer funded) schemes.</p>
<p><u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></p> <p>The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Agree to reduce speed limits as recommended at Annex 2. (ii) Authorise the prohibition of the right turn from Jacobs Well Road into the A320 Woking Road. (iii) Note five new resurfacing schemes have been prioritised by the area team. (iv) Agree the Lengthsman bids by Shere PC (£7,000) and Worplesdon PC (£4,500) subject to SCC officer scrutiny.
<p><u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></p> <p><i>The committee is asked to formally agree the recommendations above in order to progress the programme of work for 2014/15.</i></p>

1. UPDATE

Local Committee Budgets and Forecast Expenditure

- 1.1 The 2014/15 budget, agreed allocations and forecast expenditure for 2014/15 are set out at **Annex 1**, which shows that the budget is now fully committed.

Reduced Speed Limits

- 1.2 The 2014/15 programme of schemes includes requests for reduced speed limits in a number of roads. Each road has been assessed against the County Council's policy for setting speed limits with the results tabulated at **Annex 2**. The Police have been consulted and support the introduction of the recommended lower limits.

Prohibit right turn Jacobs Well Rd into A320 Woking Road

- 1.3 The 2014/15 programme includes an allocation of £10,000 for improving safety and movement at the junction of Jacobs Well Road with the A320 Woking Road.
- 1.4 The road is bounded by common land (Stringers Common) and there is little opportunity to widen the junction. A design has been produced which would provide an improved central refuge for pedestrians crossing the mouth of Jacobs Well Road and which would prohibit the right turn into the Woking Road.
- 1.5 There have been several personal injury collisions involving right turning vehicles exiting Jacobs Well Rd and this is considered due in part to restricted visibility, particularly at peak hours when vehicles on the A320 southbound queue through the junction. Residents of Jacobs Well would have to access the A320 northbound via Clay Lane.
- 1.6 The police have been consulted and support of the proposal.

Capital Maintenance LSR (surfacing) Schemes

- 1.7 **Annex 1** includes five new surfacing schemes which have been identified and prioritised by the area team. Condition was the primary consideration in the selection of these roads, although officers were mindful of the distribution of surfacing schemes included in the central Horizon and Flood Recovery programmes, which were reported at the June meeting of the committee.

High Street Setts

- 1.8 At their meeting in June the committee agreed to increase the allocation towards relaying the setts in Guildford High St to £150,000. Since then Guildford Borough Council has agreed to commit £318,000 towards the project, as has the Deputy Leader of the County Council, so the major element of funding is now in place.

- 1.9 Guildford town will host the Armed Forces Day in 2015, with the date set for 27 June. The window between now and then is too narrow to be confident that relaying the setts could be procured and completed in advance, and work is planned to start on site in the Summer of 2015, following Armed Forces Day.
- 1.10 Costs will be incurred against design and procurement only in the current financial year, and the balance of the £150,000 allocated by the committee will be carried forward to 2015/16 to meet construction costs.

Community Gang

- 1.11 For the past two or three years the committee has agreed to employ a 'Community Gang' for 48 weeks, effectively throughout the year excluding holidays.
- 1.12 The area team have reviewed this arrangement and consider that this should be reduced to 36 weeks, with funding redirected towards resurfacing roads. The reduction will be made during the winter months.

Lengthsman Scheme

- 1.13 In June the committee agreed to fund a 2014/15 bid of £4,800 by Ash PC.
- 1.14 Bids have recently been submitted by Shere (£7,000) and Worplesdon (£4,500) and it is recommended that both are approved subject to scrutiny/agreement by SCC highways officers.
- 1.15 At the June meeting it was erroneously reported that a bid had been submitted by The Horsleys, when none has been received as yet.

Community Enhancement Fund

- 1.16 At the end of August £17,000 of the £50,000 fund had been committed. SCC members are asked to discuss potential work within their divisions with the area team and confirm their requirements by the end of November so that works can be ordered and delivered before the end of the financial year.

Customer Enquiries and Defects

- 1.17 The first quarter of the financial year (April, May, June) has seen a reduction in the level of enquiries compared to the extremely high volume during January, February and March, mainly due to better weather. For the first half of 2014 some 87775 enquiries have been received, giving an average of almost 14,600 per month for the calendar year, down from 19,000.
- 1.18 For Guildford specifically, 10,656 enquiries have been received since January of which 5,276 were directed to the local area office for action, 91% of which have been resolved. This response rate is slightly below the countywide average of 95%. Although the response rate remains high, we

are working hard in conjunction with our contractors to improve and also reduce the need for customers to chase for an answer.

1.19 The reduction in customer contacts has also been reflected in the volume of complaints received, 208 for the 6 months to the end of June compared to 143 for the first quarter. The South West area comprising Guildford and Waverley has received 52 stage 1 complaints. The main reasons for these being communication and the failure to carry out works to either the required standard or timescale.

1.20 The Service is reviewing the customer service KPIs and is particularly looking at advance notification of works on the highway through our Customer Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

4. OPTIONS:

4.1 As discussed with members.

5. CONSULTATIONS:

6.1 Appropriate consultation will be carried out for all schemes.

6. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

6.2 Works will be carried out by SCC's term highways contractor, Keir, who won the term contract in a competitive tender process.

7. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 None

8. LOCALISM:

8.1 Works and schemes are designed to improve and make safer the facilities for local communities in the borough.

8.2 The Lengthman initiative allows parish councils to undertake enhanced maintenance of the public highway.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

9.1 None

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

10.1 As set out in the body of the report.

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

11.1 Officers will continue to progress the programme of schemes agreed by the committee.

Contact Officer:

SCC Area Highway Manager SW
Tel 0300 200 1003

Consulted:

As described within the report

Annexes:

1. Highways Budget and Expenditure for 2014/15
2. Reduced Speed Limits

Sources/background papers:

Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 11 December 2013 Item 12: 'Highways Budgets 2014/15'

Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 12 March 2014 Item 14: 'Highways Update'

Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 24 June 2014 Item 15: 'Highways Update'

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