

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

## LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

DATE: 25 MARCH 2015

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER

SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL



<p><b><u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u></b></p> <p>This report provides an update on the 2014/15 and 2015/16 programmes of minor highway works funded by this committee.</p>
<p><b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b></p> <p><b>The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note progress of the 2014/15 programme of highway works funded by this committee and described at <b>Annex 1</b>.</li> <li>(ii) Agree to defer the proposed signal controlled pedestrian crossing on the A320 Woking Road near Weyfield Academy to 2016/17.</li> <li>(iii) Agree to provide £35,000 funding in 2015/16 towards the Clusters Group initiative from the highways maintenance budget.</li> <li>(iv) Agree to advertise a traffic regulation order for the closure of the central reservation gap on the A31 Hogs Back at East Flexford Lane.</li> <li>(v) Agree to fund or part fund the 2015/16 Lengthsman (Localism) Scheme bids listed in this report to a maximum total value of £25,000 and subject to officer scrutiny to ensure proposed works fall within the remit of the scheme.</li> <li>(vi) Note the Project Horizon resurfacing programme for 2015/16 set out at <b>Annex 2</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</u></b></p> <p><i>The committee is asked to formally agree the recommendations above in order to progress the programmes of highway works for 2014/15 and 2015/15.</i></p>

<b>1. UPDATE</b>
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**2014/15 Budgets and Forecast Expenditure**

- 1.1 The 2014/15 budget, allocations and forecast expenditure are set out at **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 This shows that installation of a number of improvement schemes has been delayed with works now planned in the first quarter of 2015/16. The delays became apparent during January, and are due to either late completion of design work, because design is complete but our term contractor does not have the resources available to install in the busy final quarter of the financial year, or in one case a clash with nearby roadworks..
- 1.3 As a result a capital underspend of **£47,000** is forecast. Such underspend is usually carried forward to the following year, a decision which is made by a meeting of the full Council for the budgets of all services.

**2015/16 Budgets and Forecast Expenditure**

- 1.4 Delayed 2014/15 improvement schemes are expected to be installed during the first quarter of 2015/16 at a total forecast cost of **£160,000**.
- 1.5 At the meeting of 26 November the committee agreed the following allocations for 2015/16:-

***ITS Schemes***

Boxgrove area schools, Guildford: Area safety scheme	£100,000
Onslow village: Area safety scheme feasibility study	£10,000
A248 The Street, Albury: Traffic calming measures	£25,000
B3000 The Street, Compton: Traffic calming measures	£25,000
Eashing Lane, Godalming: Road safety feasibility study	£3,000
A320 Woking Rd, Guildford: Upgrade refuge to Puffin xing	£120,000
A25 Newlands Corner: Traffic calming/improved crossing	£20,000
Ockham Rd South: Traffic calming measures	£20,000
Merrow Lane, Guildford: Footway extension	£5,000
A322 Worplesdon Rd: Upgrade Barrack Rd crossing point	£8,000
A31 Farnham Rd, Guildford: Vehicle activated sign	£2,000
Ad-hoc signs and lines budget	£20,000
Persian New Year, Ockham	£7,000
Peaslake Lane, Peaslake: Feasibility study 20mph limit	£3,000
A247 Send Barn Lane: Feasibility study road safety for scheme	<u>£1,500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£369,500</b>

**Maintenance Works and Operations**

Community Gang for 24 weeks	£40,000
Jetter for five weeks	£25,000
Ad-hoc maintenance work by area team	£10,000
Reserve funding for Lengthsman scheme	£25,000
High Street Setts	£150,000
Carriageway/footway/drainage schemes	<u>£171,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£421,000</b>

1.6 To summarise, the total estimated value of committed and planned works is as follows:-

Complete 2014/15 ITS Schemes	£160,000
Planned 2015/16 ITS Schemes	£369,500
Maintenance works and operations	<u>£421,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£950,500</b>

1.7 The 2015/16 budget has now been confirmed as follows, with Revenue Maintenance reduced by 25% (£80,000) compared to previous years. There is also the stipulation that 25% of capital maintenance (£65,000) must be directed towards drainage works:-

Capital ITS (improvement) schemes	£262,000
Capital Maintenance	£262,000
Revenue Maintenance	£237,000
Anticipated 2014/15 ITS capital carry-forward	<u>£ 47,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£808,000</b>

Community Enhancement Fund	£50,000
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**Guildford Transportation Task Group**

1.8 With the value of the agreed 2015/16 programme estimated to be well in excess of budget the Guildford Transportation Task Group met on 4 February to discuss adjustments.

1.9 The Area Highway Manager advised the meeting of developments relating to one of the two high value ITS scheme in the programme: A320 Woking Rd, Guildford, upgrade refuge to Puffin crossing estimated at £120,000. This crossing near Weyfield Academy was requested by the Guildford Borough Council local member, since which the site has been the subject of a police

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and SCC highways safety assessment. As a result Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) had been installed on both approaches. The Police have monitored speeds since this intervention and found much better compliance with the 30mph speed limit.

- 1.10 The task group considered that this scheme should be deferred in view of the recently made changes to allow their effects to be properly assessed. Deferring this scheme would reduce projected 2015/16 expenditure to £830,000.

### **Cluster Group Funding**

- 1.11 Cluster Group funding was introduced as a joint Surrey County Council (SCC) and Guildford Borough Council (GBC) initiative in 2014/15, when both authorities contributed £35,000, and is fully described at agenda **ITEM 18**
- 1.12 In 2014/15 SCC funding was provided from the capital element of member allocations. As this source of funding is no longer available for 2015/16 it is proposed that £35,000 be allocated from the GLC Highways budget to match GBC's contribution, in order not to lose the benefit of this joint working. This would allow funds to be directed by the Cluster Groups at a very local level to address issues raised by residents.
- 1.13 The majority of allocations by the Cluster Groups in 2014/2015 were highways related, including funds for drain clearing and improvement to ditching & drainage, amounting to £38,417. Using £35,000 for Cluster Funds from the Highways budget for carriageway, footway or drainage maintenance schemes would allow greater localised control and benefit from matched funding from GBC

### **Road Safety Working Group: A31 Hogs Back central reservation gap closure at East Flexford Lane**

- 1.14 The Road Safety Working Group (RSWG) for Guildford comprises SCC highways officers and Police road safety officers, and meets several times a year to review accident clusters and consider what might be done to reduce collisions.
- 1.15 In May 2014 the group reviewed accidents at the central reservation gap on the A31 Hogs Back at East Flexford Lane. In the three years since 2011 there had been seven accidents involving drivers using the gap and the group recommends that it is permanently closed to traffic.
- 1.16 To do this a traffic regulation order would be advertised. There are likely to be objections from residents who are directly affected and such objections would be reported to a future meeting of this committee for a decision on whether to proceed with the proposed closure.
- 1.17 All costs associated with the closure would be met by the RSWG.

### **Lengthsman (Localism) Scheme**

1.18 Bids for funding in 2015/16 have been submitted by four organisations:-

Western Cluster PCs	£12,600
Ash PC	£4,800
The Horsley PCs	£10,000
Worplesdon PC	<u>£7,000</u>

**Total £34,400**

1.19 The value of these bids is well in excess of the £25,000 allocated by the committee.

1.20 As in 2014/15 area team officers will scrutinise bids to ensure works fall within with the remit of the scheme and discuss allocation values with the local member with a view to fund or part fund all bids to a total value not exceeding the budget of £25,000.

### **Operation Horizon Resurfacing Programme for 2015/16**

1.21 **Annex 2** shows the forward programme for Year 3 of the Operation Horizon, 2015/16 (centrally funded).

### **Customer Enquiries and Reactive Repairs**

1.22 The continued mild weather in the last quarter has meant the downward trend has continued since the extremely high volume in the first part of the year. Overall volumes remain high with over 149000 received for the 2014 calendar year, giving an average of approximately 12400 per month, down from 13100 in the third quarter.

1.23 For Guildford specifically, 17568 enquiries have been received since January of which 8681 were directed to the local area office for action, 91% of these have been resolved. This response rate is below the countywide average of 95%. Although the response rate remains high, we are working hard in conjunction with our contractors to improve the service we provide. The new Works Management System has allowed greater visibility throughout the life of a customer enquiry and officers are able to view better information and works schedules.

1.24 Work continues to improve performance and we are currently undertaking a Key Driver Analysis of the annual National Highways and Transport survey to better understand customer satisfaction. In addition the Customer Service Excellence Member Reference Group is reviewing our response standards and Customer Charter.

## **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 Lengsthman 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.

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**Consulted:**  
As described within the report

**Annexes:**  
1. Highways Budget and Expenditure for 2014/15  
2. Operation Horizon Programme 2015/16

**Sources/background papers:**  
Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 26 November 2014: Item 12: 'Highways Budgets for 2015/16'