

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)****DATE:** 2 December 2015**LEAD OFFICER:** Guy Davies (MVDC)**SUBJECT:** Infrastructure Needs Assessment**DIVISION:** Dorking Rural, Dorking South & the Holmwoods, Bookham & Fetcham West, Leatherhead & Fetcham East, Ashted, Dorking Hills

<b><u>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</u></b>
Mole Valley District Council is carrying out an Infrastructure Needs Assessment. This report explains the purpose of the assessment and the consultation that is being undertaken.
<b><u>RECOMMENDATION:</u></b>
<b>The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to note the content of the report.</b>
<b><u>REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:</u></b>
To inform the Local Committee about the Mole Valley Infrastructure Needs Assessment.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 There is growing concern about the provision and maintenance of infrastructure. Growth in the population, changes in demographic profile and new development all give rise to additional demands on existing infrastructure. There is a perception that in some cases infrastructure is not keeping up with the changing demands upon it.
- 1.2 At regional and county level work is underway to determine strategic infrastructure needs. Surrey County Council is undertaking a Surrey-wide infrastructure study. Coast to Capital Local Economic Partnership has undertaken an infrastructure assessment of their area. East Surrey and West Sussex authorities are jointly undertaking a Gatwick-centred infrastructure study, including a scenario looking at the effects on infrastructure of a second runway. The work is being undertaken to help these bodies compete more effectively for national infrastructure funding. Other regional bodies outside Surrey and Sussex are engaged in similar work.
- 1.3 At a local level, Mole Valley District Council has published an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which draws together infrastructure projects and programmes

planned for Mole Valley by a wide range of infrastructure providers, including the County Council. The Plan has been produced to support the Community Infrastructure Levy.

- 1.4 While useful as these studies and plans are, Mole Valley Executive members felt there was a need to assess infrastructure needs at a more local level across the District. The assessment has been planned as a 'bottom up' approach using local opinion to identify infrastructure problems that are of importance to local communities; and give them a voice in planning for future infrastructure provision.

## **2. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS ASSESSMENT:**

2.1 The purpose of the Infrastructure Needs Assessment is:

- a. To identify the infrastructure needs that are important to local people
- b. To help prioritise funding, including Mole Valley's Community Infrastructure Levy once adopted

2.2 The scope of the assessment is wide, seeking views on all facilities needed to support services to the public including transport (road, bus, cycle, pedestrian), education, health, leisure, flood prevention, drainage, youth facilities, waste and recycling. It also includes facilities outside public service provision but which typically fall to be considered as infrastructure such as rail, power, water, broadband and mobile reception.

2.3 The intention of the assessment is to complement the wider strategic infrastructure studies, but with a focus on local infrastructure needs rather than national infrastructure such as the motorway network or airports. The assessment is user-led rather than provider-led.

## **3. CONSULTATION:**

3.1 Consultation will be carried out to all addresses in Mole Valley. Examples of publicity literature are attached. Publicity will include:

- Postcard notification in two phases – Dorking and south of District (early November); Leatherhead and north of District (early December incorporated into Transform Leatherhead phase II consultation)
- Publicity Events – inviting members of the public to post their comments in a 'wishing well' throughout November
- Mole Valley UTube video channel
- Mole Valley social media (Twitter, Facebook, Streetlife)
- Mole Valley website
- Press release and newspaper advert
- Mole Valley parish council and residents association meetings

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/molevalley](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/molevalley)

3.2 Response channels will include:

- Online questionnaire (main channel)
- Freepost postcard returns
- Hard copy questionnaires
- Selected interviews

3.3 Some local communities engaged in neighbourhood planning have already identified infrastructure as an issue and are collating views and information on their particular local situations. This information will be used to inform the assessment.

3.4 Future infrastructure requirements will depend on a number of factors including planning new development, forecast changes in demand for services and public service consolidation as a result of financial constraints. This information is most appropriately provided by infrastructure providers. Much of the information is already contained in the Mole Valley Infrastructure Delivery Plan, which will be updated as required.

3.5 A summary of responses received and conclusions will form the final document that will be published in Spring 2016.

#### **4. OPTIONS:**

4.1 The Local Committee is asked to note the work being undertaken on the Infrastructure Needs Assessment.

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

6.1 The assessment is not expected to give rise to any equality or diversity implications.

#### **7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 The assessment focuses on local communities as the principal stakeholders in identifying infrastructure deficits and needs.

#### **8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

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

vulnerable children and adults	from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

## **9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

9.1 Highway and other public transport issues are expected to feature strongly in responses to the consultation. The assessment will be reported to the Local Committee when complete, and it is hoped will be of use in helping to identify infrastructure needs and priorities.

9.2 The assessment is likely to form the basis for ongoing dialogue between Mole Valley and the Local Committee, particularly once the Community Infrastructure Levy has been adopted in Mole Valley, in focusing resources based on local needs and preferences.

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### **Consulted:**

See section 3 above.

### **Annexes:**

Infrastructure Needs Assessment Postcard Notification  
Infrastructure Needs Questionnaire

### **Sources/background papers:**

Mole Valley Infrastructure Delivery Plan, November 2015

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