

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)**

**DATE: 8 DECEMBER 2015**



**LEAD OFFICER: MARC WOODALL – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT MANAGER**

**SUBJECT: GUILDFORD LOCAL CYCLING PLAN - CONSULTATION**

**DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

As part of the Surrey Transport Plan, the Surrey Cycling Strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2013. The Strategy set out a role for Local Committees to oversee the development of Local Cycling Plans.

A public consultation of the draft Guildford Cycling Plan was held between the 5 October and the 16 November 2015, following two stakeholder workshops. This report provides a summary of the results of the public consultation, and recommends a new approach to capturing public comments and suggestions on new cycling infrastructure. This report also asks that the Transportation Task Group consider the consultation responses in more detail, including undertaking a prioritisation exercise of future cycling infrastructure needs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to agree that :**

- (i) A rolling engagement programme be established, giving residents an online resource to submit suggestions, make comments and review completed improvements to cycling infrastructure hosted on the Travel SMART website
- (ii) The successful stakeholder workshops established before the public consultation period be continued, so the stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss developing schemes as well as strategy;
- (iii) The Transportation Task Group considers the consultation responses in more detail, with the aim of agreeing and reviewing a prioritised list of Cycling Plan actions including infrastructure proposals.
- (iv) The Cycling Plan be incorporated into the Guildford Local Transport Strategy.
- (v) Reports seeking future funding for cycle infrastructure can be submitted to the Local Committee for consideration

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The public consultation of the Guildford Local Cycling Plan has provided a wealth of well informed, constructive and useful comments and suggestions which will help shape the future of cycling Guildford. The consultation received an almost unanimously positive response, with respondents encouraging the Council to invest in more cycling infrastructure and other actions to promote cycling and promote safety.

In order to facilitate continued dialogue with local stakeholder groups, and interested residents, it is recommended to provide a permanent online resource for people to submit this information, and where updates on Cycling Plan delivery and progress can also be provided to the public. It is recognised that the delivery of the Cycling Plan is an ongoing process, responding to new infrastructure opportunities, the development of new promotional and safety campaigns and the progress of the Guildford Local Plan. It is also clear from the consultation responses that the design of cycle facilities is of great interest to residents, therefore the engagement process needs to be maintained as schemes are developed.

There are a number of lower cost quick wins that have been identified during the process which could provide significant benefits to cyclists. Alongside the Guildford Transport town centre transport package, these may represent an opportunity for earlier implementation.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 The Surrey Cycling Strategy, approved by Cabinet in December 2013, with an aim of as 'more people cycling, more safely' and set out its vision:

"..... a true Olympic legacy would see every child in Surrey learning to ride a bike and being able to cycle safely to school. It would mean that many more of our residents cycle for transport and leisure, reducing congestion and reliance on cars and reaping the considerable health and economic benefits this brings. And it would mean that people without access to a car can travel safely and affordably around the county."

1.2 Local Cycling Plans are being developed for all Surrey Districts and Boroughs, and the final documents will include five main elements :

- a. Infrastructure
- b. Promotion and events
- c. Cycle training
- d. Safety campaigns
- e. Monitoring and evaluation

1.3 The Guildford Local Cycling Plan has been developed through an iterative process involving the Transportation Task Group and local stakeholders, resulting in a draft local cycling plan including an infrastructure proposals map, approaches to promotion, safety and evaluation, being prepared for public consultation.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 The public consultation of the draft Guildford Local Cycling Plan was held between the 5 October 2015 and 16 November 2015. The consultation was held to coincide with the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package and Guildford Borough Council's Masterplan proposals.
- 2.2 In order to ensure comments which overlap each consultation are effectively captured, officers from Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council will be holding a workshop to share responses.
- 2.3 The consultation was undertaken:
- a. Online where respondents were asked to complete a short survey and had the opportunity to provide open comments,
  - b. At a public exhibition held at Guildford library on three separate dates, in a space shared with the public consultation for the town centre transport package proposals;
  - c. An invitation only drop in session was held at West Horsley Parish Hall where all of Guildford's Parishes were invited to discuss the plans.
- 2.4 In total, 252 written and verbal comments have been received. These comments are shown in Annex A.
- 2.5 The responses were broad in scope and focused mainly on infrastructure. Comments and suggestions covered suggestions for strategic priorities, comments on the usefulness of the existing and potential routes presented in the consultation, suggested additional routes, descriptions of how detailed design affects the attractiveness of routes and comments on the importance of maintenance.
- 2.6 The responses illustrate how every stage of infrastructure implementation can affect the usefulness of a cycle facility, from planning to the detail of the construction, and the importance of continued engagement to ensure success.
- 2.7 As can be seen from Annex A, a significant number of comments were made in conjunction with Guildford town centre. Conversely, few comments were received from the west of the Borough and that could be addressed in any ongoing engagement.

## **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 As a result of the public consultation a revised Cycling Plan will be produced, including an updated existing and potential cycling infrastructure map. The Transportation Task Group (TTG) will be asked to consider the Plan in greater detail and prioritise infrastructure from a short, medium and long term perspective. It is anticipated that updates through a rolling engagement process could be regularly reported to the TTG.

## ITEM 10

- 3.2 The existing and potential infrastructure map will then be used to inform future cycle infrastructure programmes and bidding opportunities. It will also provide a point of reference for future highways and public realm improvements throughout the borough.
- 3.3 It is proposed that the existing and potential infrastructure map will be published online using a new tool which will allow residents and other interested groups to provide comments and suggestions at any time, helping to continue to refine and improve the proposals in the future. The proposals map will provide a snapshot of the cycle infrastructure need, but this approach means that the map can be changed to reflect shifting needs, particularly in light of longer term proposals such as the Sustainable Movement Corridor.
- 3.4 The alternative option is to publish the final infrastructure map, without the ability to provide further interaction with the proposals into the future. However, this option would fail to capture the interest and higher profile cycling infrastructure proposals have received during this process, and would lead to less well informed proposals being delivered in the future.
- 3.5 A number of quick wins have been identified during the consultation process. There are minor improvements, which may require a change of legal orders or small capital works that can unlock longer stretches of existing infrastructure. It is proposed that a report detailing these minor improvements be presented at the march 2016 Guildford Local Committee for consideration.
- 3.6 In consultation with Surrey Highways, it is also proposed that smaller scale improvements be presented to the Local Committee for consideration. While there are opportunities to seek funding for larger scale transformative changes through the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, it is difficult to direct this scale of funding to some of the smaller necessary changes throughout the borough that have been identified.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

The public consultation of the Guildford Local Cycling Plan ran from 5 October to the 16 November 2015. Three public exhibitions and one parish specific drop in session were held where residents could discuss the proposals face to face with officers from Surrey County Council. Officers also received a significant number of direct emails with comments, suggestions and changes to the proposals.

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

There are no direct financial or value for money implications arising from this report, however, the final proposals map will document the aspiration to build significant amounts of cycling infrastructure in Guildford. Funding will be sought from sources including the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership, the Department For Transport (when available), and local sources to begin delivery of these plans.

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

- 6.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report. However, emerging analysis from cycle modelling data suggests that men and women and different ethnic groups respond differently to new cycling

infrastructure, and this will need to be taken into consideration when design future cycling infrastructure.

## **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 The proposal to have a permanent resource online for residents and local communities to provide comment on proposals and delivered infrastructure promotes localism and local involvement in the development of new cycling infrastructure throughout the borough.

## **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.

### 8.1 Sustainability implications

Increasing levels of cycling, can have a positive impact in congestion reduction and a consequent reduction in carbon emissions. This report seeks to provide the outline proposals to deliver infrastructure that will provide an increase in levels of cycling in Guildford.

### 8.2 Public Health implications

Active travel (walking and cycling), particularly for utility trips such as travelling to work, school and shopping, is considered a key deliverable against Public Health priorities such as Obesity and Air Quality. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance – Physical Activity : Walking and Cycling states that encouraging walking and cycling reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, obesity and type 2 diabetes It can help keep the musculoskeletal system healthy and promote mental wellbeing.

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

**The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to agree that :**

- (i) A rolling engagement programme be established, giving residents an online resource to submit suggestions, make comments and review completed improvements to cycling infrastructure hosted on the Travel SMART website

## ITEM 10

- (ii) That the successful stakeholder workshops established before the public consultation period be continued, so the stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss developing schemes as well as strategy;
- (iii) The Transportation Task Group considers the consultation responses in more detail, with the aim of agreeing and reviewing a prioritised list of Cycling Plan actions including infrastructure proposals.
- (iv) The Cycling Plan be incorporated into the Guildford Local Transport Strategy.
- (v) Reports seeking future funding for cycle infrastructure can be submitted to the Local Committee for consideration

### **10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

10.1 An updated Cycling Plan will be presented to the Transportation Task Group in early 2016 for more detailed analysis and prioritisation. The TTG will also be asked to consider ongoing engagement proposals such as further stakeholder workshops. A final proposals map will be published online after this meeting. A report will be tabled at the Spring Guildford Local Committee considering quick wins, and future proposals will be presented to the committee as appropriate.

---

#### **Contact Officer:**

Marc Woodall, Sustainable Transport Manager  
Tel : 01483 519556

#### **Consulted:**

Public consultation  
Guildford Borough Council Planning Policy Team  
Local Highway Manager

#### **Annexes:**

Annex A – Guildford Cycling Plan Consultation responses

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

- [Surrey Cycling Strategy 2014](#)