

Further Transportation Task Group recommendation following the meeting on February 15th,
2016

The Guildford Local Committee (GLC) has, for many years, maintained a “wish list” of safety or other road improvement schemes which have been approved in principle but which are awaiting funding. The Committee’s Transportation Task Group (TTG), advised by the Officers, has had the difficult job of recommending which schemes from the “wish list” should be implemented in each financial year, given the constraints of the GLC’s approved Budget. In 2015, the GLC approved a new methodology to prioritise schemes from the “wish list” on a more objective basis. Prior to the TTG meeting on October 19th, 2015, the Highways Officers were instructed to apply this new methodology to the 50 schemes then on the “wish list”. Based on this work, their report to the TTG indicated that 14 schemes should be High Priority (H), 8 Medium Priority (M) and 28 Low Priority (L).

At that stage, the TTG were hoping that the funding in 2016/17 might be sufficient to at least approve all of the H schemes. However, the Highways Manager advised that there was a serious risk of the 2016/17 funding being substantially lower than that in 2015/16 – possibly only about 50%. On that basis, the TTG decided that it could, at that stage, recommend only 6 of the H schemes for inclusion in the 2016/17 programme. These were all schemes where there had been feasibility studies or other work in 2015/16. The combined cost of them was £227,000. The December GLC meeting accepted this recommendation.

A further TTG meeting had been arranged for February 15th, 2016 and it was hoped that, by then, the final GLC Budget for 2016/17 might be known and that it might be possible to recommend some more schemes for inclusion in the 2016/17 programme. Unfortunately, the 2016/17 Budget figures were still not available at that time. In fact the only financial decision made by the TTG at that meeting was the inclusion of some of the smaller schemes from a “cycling Quick Wins” report with a combined cost of £2000. Rather than arranging yet another TTG meeting it was agreed that, when I, as Chairman, had received details of the 2016/17 Budget, I would contact the other TTG members on a telephone basis and try to agree with them a unanimous recommendation on the allocation of any further funding that might have become available.

I eventually established that the GLC Budget for 2016/17 was £461,040 (Capital) and £238,312 (Revenue). The combined cost of the other 8 H schemes was £202,000. Detailed discussions with the Highways Manager indicated that the new Budget was just about sufficient to allow the inclusion of these 8 schemes in the 2016/17 programme. Following telephone conversations with the other five TTG members, this recommendation was unanimously agreed. The list of the 14 H schemes and details of other recommended Capital and Revenue spending are included in the Highways Update to the March GLC meeting.

Keith Taylor – 7th March 2016

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