

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

DATE: 23 MARCH 2016

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN HILDER

SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS UPDATE

DIVISION: ALL



<p>SUMMARY OF ISSUE:</p> <p>This report provides an update on the 2015/16 programmes of highway improvement and maintenance works funded by this committee and makes recommendations on the allocation of the budget for 2016/17, which has been announced since the committee last met in December.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p>The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note progress and forecast outturn costs for the 2015/16 programme of highway works funded by this committee and described at Annex 1. (ii) Authorise the Area Highway Manager (AHM) to progress the schemes included in the programme in consultation with local elected members and associated task groups. (iii) Subject to approval of recommendations (i) and (ii) authorise the AHM to consider and determine any objections submitted following the statutory advertisement of the traffic orders and notices associated with the programme of schemes, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant local councillors. (iv) Delegate authority to the AHM in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and locally affected Members to amend budgets throughout the year if required to ensure the budget is allocated in a timely manner. (v) Agree that Community Enhancement Fund is devolved to each County Councillor based on an equal allocation of £5,000 per division
<p>REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:</p> <p><i>The committee is asked to agree allocations for 2016/17 so that the agreed programme of highway works and operations can be delivered in a timely manner.</i></p>

1. UPDATE

2015/16 Budgets and Forecast Expenditure

- 1.1 The 2015/16 budgets, allocations, forecast expenditure to the year end for individual schemes and general highway works are set out at **Annex 1**.
- 1.2 Annex 1 shows three schemes will not be completed by the end of March and that costs of 45,000 are expected to be incurred in 2016/17. This compares with a forecast underspend of 32,000 which is expected to be carried forward as has been the case in past years.

Highways Budget for 2016/17

- 1.3 At the meeting of 8 December 2015 the committee agreed the following allocations as recommended by the Transportation Task Group (TTG).

Ad-hoc signs, lines etc. by the area team	10,000
Community gang for 13 weeks	20,000
Jetter for 5 weeks	25,000
Ad – hoc maintenance works by area team	10,000
Funding for Lengthsman scheme	<u>25,000</u>
Total	£90,000 (revenue maintenance)

Cluster Initiative £35,000 (capital maintenance)

High St Setts £20,000 (capital maintenance)

Onslow village area schools safety scheme	80,000
Eashing Lane improved signing	30,000
Reduced speed limit in Peaslake Lane	30,000
Send safety scheme	50,000
A25 Epsom Rd W. Clandon junction safety	12,000
Aldershot Road pedestrian refuge	<u>25,000</u>
Total	£227,000 (capital ITS)

1.4 The above represents a total revenue allocation of £90,000 and a total capital allocation of £255,000. Both are approximately 50% of the budgets available in 2015/16 since in the Autumn of 2015 it was expected that there would be significant budget reductions in the coming year.

Transportation Task Group Meeting 15 February 2016

1.5 A further TTG meeting was arranged for 15 February 2016, in the expectation that the budget for 2016/17 would then be known. But it had not yet been announced and the only financial decision the TTG made was that £2,000 (capital ITS) be allocated to 'quick win' cycling measures identified in a Guildford Cycle Strategy item considered as item on the meeting agenda.

1.6 Rather than arranging a further meeting the TTG agreed that when the Chairman eventually received details of the 2016/17 budget he would contact other TTG members by telephone to try to agree a unanimous recommendation on the allocation of any further funding that might have been available.

1.7 In late February Local Committee budgets were announced as follows.

Capital (ITS and Maintenance)	461,014
Revenue	<u>238,312</u>
	699,352

1.8 The Chairman discussed the increased funding available with the Area Highway Manager (AHM) who advised that it would be sufficient to progress the 8 ITS schemes which in the Autumn of 2015 had been assessed as 'High' under the Priority Framework adopted by the committee to prioritise schemes.

A323 Guildford Rd, Ash. Ped refuge	25,000
B3000 Hook Lane, Puttenham. Ped refuge	40,000
A281 The Street, Shalford. Ped refuge	30,000
B3012 Gole Rd, Pirbright. Ped refuge	70,000
D4001 Southway, Guildford. Dropped kerbs	4,000
Avenue De Cagny, traffic calming	20,000
A246 Epsom Rd/Waterdene Rd. Kerb build-out.	10,000
Station Approach feasibility	<u>3,000</u>
Total	£202,000 (capital ITS)

1.9 The Area Manager also highlighted the fact that that due to anticipated budget reductions the allocations made in December for ad-hoc signs & lines and the

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Community Gang had been significantly reduced, and recommended the following allocations.

Community Enhancement	50,000 (as in December)
Ad-hoc signs & lines (previously 10,000)	20,000
Community Gang (previously 20,000/13 weeks)	<u>30,000</u> (20 weeks)
	100,000 (rev.maint)

1.10 The suggested allocations described at 1.4 to 1.8 above together with those made at the December committee meeting, itemised at 1.2 above, result in the following totals.

Revenue Allocation
90,000 + 100,000 = 190,000 (revenue maintenance)

Capital Allocation
35,000 + 20,000 = 55,000 (capital maintenance)
227,000 + 202,000 + 2,000 = 431,000 (capital ITS)
486,000

1.11 The capital allocation of 486,000 exceeds the 461,000 allocation by 25,000 and so this figure will have to be met from revenue (capitalised revenue). With this adjustment made the capital budget is fully allocated and just over 23,000 of revenue funding would remain unallocated, which should be held in reserve at present.

1.12 The Chairman discussed the allocations above with TTG members, who unanimously agreed they be recommended to the committee.

1.13 Note that the zebra crossing at St Joseph's School had been assessed as 'Medium' in the Autumn of 2015. The Area Highway Manager had the crossing re-assessed in February in view of the two accidents that happened over the winter, and it scored as 'High'. The Chairman discussed this with TTG members who agreed in view of the high value of a pelican crossing, which would mean several other schemes would have to be deferred if it were to be funded in 2016/17, and the measures being put in place to provide a school crossing patrol at the zebra, it should not be recommended for funding in the coming year.

Lengsthman Scheme

1.14 Bids for funding in 2015/16 had been submitted by four organisations by the end of February:-

Ash PC	£ to be confirmed
Shere PC	£7,854
Worplesdon PC	<u>£5,500</u>

Total £13,354

- 1.15 The Ash bid does not include an overall value and officers will talk to the parish council to clarify. As in 2015/16 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.

Guildford High Street Setts

- 1.16 Works commenced on Wednesday 3 February and are expected to take around 6 months to complete, with the road cleared and fully re-opened in July.
- 1.17 A shortfall in recovered setts is expected as some are missing and some are unsightly modern replacements. Additionally it will only be possible to recover a limited number of setts in areas of previous repairs where very high strength epoxy mortars have been used (this material will not be used in the works, rather high strength cementitious mortars). Replacement setts have been sourced and procured which originate from King's Cross Station. These are an extremely good match to those in the High Street and exhibit similar levels of wear. They date to the same era as the High Street and very possibly both originals and replacements originate from the same quarries.
- 1.18 Works are progressing reasonably well, but delays have been encountered due to water service pipe leaks. Thames Water are fully co-operating in repairing leaks and replacing these service pipes between the mains within the carriageway and the stop valves within the footway.
- 1.19 Deliveries for shops adjacent to works areas are affected to a degree, but retailers are managing to make adjustments. Overall there have been almost no complaints about the work and passers by are expressing a keen interest in what is going on, with the men on site laying the setts being regularly complimented on their craft.

Customer Enquiries and Reactive Repairs

- 1.20 The total number of enquiries received in the calendar year 2015 is 121,578 an average of 10,130 per month. This is down from 149,000 in 2014 and is due to a combination of milder weather throughout the year and ongoing improvement projects.
- 1.21 All reports are categorised at the point of logging, either automatically through the website or by officers, safety defects are directed to Kier with the remainder passed to the SCC local office for further investigation. During 2014 the average split was 44% SCC and 56 % Kier, for 2015 this has seen a shift to 39/61.
- 1.22 This change can be mainly attributed to work that has been undertaken through the Customer Service Excellence project to improve the response times and quality of response, reducing the need for customers to contact us again in relation to their enquiry. Enhancements to the roadwork web page, online reporting and proactive communication of planned works have also helped to reduce the number of general enquiries made by customers.

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1.23 For Guildford specifically 14,625 enquiries were received between January and December of which 5,800 (40%) were directed to the local area office for action, of these 95% have been resolved. This response rate is slightly below the Highways countywide average 96%

1.24 For 2015, 513 complaints were received of which 87 stage 1 and 16 stage 2 were for the South West area, including Guildford. The main reasons for these complaints were communication, resurfacing and policy/decision making. The service was found to be at fault in 4 of the stage 2 complaints following independent investigation. We continue to work closely with the corporate customer relations team and have created corrective action plans for all outstanding actions. In addition any remedial action identified at stage 1 is now monitored more closely to ensure compliance and reduce escalation to stage 2.

1.25 Recent surveys conducted with our Highways Customer Panel showed that 71% of those surveyed were either satisfied or very satisfied with the customer service they received. This result was endorsed by the findings of the annual independent National Highways & Transport Survey conducted by MORI.

1.26 Improvements identified for 2016 include piloting a new hand-held device for LHOs to increase mobile working, better coordination between the Customer Care Team and the Area Offices and further enhancements to the website.

2. OPTIONS:

2.1 Officers seek to implement the most cost effective measures which meet scheme objectives.

3. CONSULTATIONS:

3.1 Appropriate consultation will be carried out for all schemes.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

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

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 None

6. LOCALISM:

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

6.2 The Lenghtman initiative allows parish councils to undertake enhanced maintenance of the public highway.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

7.1 None

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

8.1 As set out in the body of the report.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

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

Contact Officer: John Hilder
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Consulted:
As described within the report

Annexes:
1. Highways budget and forecast expenditure for 2015/16

Sources/background papers:
Local Committee for Guildford Wednesday 8 December 2015: Item 13 'Highways Update Report' and item 14 'Highways Budget for 2016/17'

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