

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)**

DATE: 6 JULY 2017
LEAD OFFICER: FRANK APICELLA
 ACTING AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER
SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS UPDATE
DIVISION: ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report provides an update on the 2016/17 programmes of highway improvement and maintenance works funded by this committee. The report also details the 2017/18 highways budget devolved to this committee, which was confirmed by Cabinet on the 28th March 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:**

- (i) Note last year's expenditure of the devolved budget, 2016/17.
- (ii) Agree to allocate the reduced revenue devolved budget for this financial year 2017/18 as detailed in the report.
- (iii) Agree to allocate the reduced capital devolved budget for this financial year 2017/18 as detailed in the report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee is asked to agree the recommendations to enable early progression of works orders.

1. UPDATE

2016/17 Budgets and Forecast Expenditure

- 1.1 At the meetings of the March and June 2016, the committee devolved budget was as follows:-

Capital ITS (Integrated Transport Schemes)	£230,500
Capital Maintenance	£230,500
Revenue Maintenance	<u>£238,000</u>
Total	£699,000

- 1.2 At the December 2016 meeting, and in anticipation of around 30% reduction in committee funding, the committee recommended making allocations to the sum of £460,000, as detailed below.

Revenue maintenance works	£115,000
Cluster funding	£35,000
Capital ITS	<u>£310,000</u>
Total	£460,000

- 1.3 The committee resolved that if the budget proved to be less than the anticipated £460,000, the task group would bring further recommendations to the 22nd March committee meeting.

- 1.4 As in previous years the task group recommended that the revenue funding should be set aside for Community Enhancement and routine operations such as the community gang and ad hoc signs and lines which allows the highway team to respond to day requests for signs, bollards, road markings, and minor maintenance works.

- 1.5 The group also considered that the lengthsman scheme should be funded as in previous years

Community Enhancement (5K/SCC member)	£50,000
Ad-hoc signs, lines, etc, by the area team	£10,000
Community Gang for 13 weeks	£20,000
Ad-hoc maintenance works by area teams	£10,000
Lengthsman	<u>£25,000</u>
Total	£115,000

ITS Schemes from 2016/17 not completed

- 1.6 Below is the list of schemes not completed during 2016/17. The reasons for this were explained at the March Committee, and was due to unexpected accounts.

D4017 Onslow village phase 2: Road safety	£40,000
A323 Aldershot Road: Pedestrian refuge	£25,000
A281 The Street, Shalford: Pedestrian refuge	£25,000
D48 Avenue De Cagny, Pirbright: Traffic calming	<u>£20,000</u>
Total	£110,000

- 1.7 **Annex 1** identifies the 2016/17 budget, allocations and forecast expenditure and reflects that the majority of the programme of improvement schemes was completed by the end of the financial year.
- 1.8 **Annex 2** confirms the current approved list of schemes for 2017/18 and schemes from 2016/17 that were not completed, which have been approved by the task group. However this list of work is undeliverable with the current levels of funding.

Local Committee Budget for 2017/18

- 1.9 On the 28th March 2017 the Cabinet approved the Guildford Local Committee devolved budget for 2017/18 as follows.

Revenue Maintenance	£40,909
Capital (Maintenance & ITS)	<u>£36,363</u>
Total	£77,272

This information has been received very late in the financial year and subsequent to the 22nd March Committee. This compounded with the May local elections, has meant that we are now 3 months into this new financial year, without any formal decisions having been made on committee expenditure in Guildford.

Lengthsman (Localism) Bids for 2017/18

- 1.10 Many new bids and requests for increase allocations have been received. All the Town Councils (TCs) and Parish Councils (PCs) were written to, once this reduced budget was known to advise of this change, and mitigate any risk of early expenditure by them, ahead of any committee resolution.
- 1.11 In order to attempt to somewhat lessen the impact of this, it is proposed to allocate the entire revenue maintenance budget of £40,909, to the ordering of a vegetation gang under the direct control of the maintenance engineer.

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- 1.12 The lengthsman scheme expenditure was predominantly expended on this type of activity and hence this funding should go some way to maintain this benefit locally.

Local Transport Plan (LTP) Task Group Recommendations

- 1.13 The schemes list Task Group Priorities is attached at Annex 2.
- 1.14 The heavily reduced committee funding for 2017/18 will severely affect the deliverability of this programme and many projects included on the list.
- 1.15 As some of the 2016/17 ITS schemes were not completed before 31st March 2017, it is recommended that the 2017/18 capital budget is used to cover the cost of the 2016/17 schemes, together with a budget to permit officers to continue to provide a service for ad-hoc signs and lines;

Ad-hoc signs and lines (2017/18)	£ 5,363
Gole Road scheme (2016/17)	£24,000
Boxgrove Lane signs and markings (2016/17)	<u>£ 7,000</u>
Total	£36,363

ITS Schemes 2017/18

- 1.16 Annex 2 shows the current approved list of schemes which have been approved by the task group. However this list of work is undeliverable as it is currently in excess of £300,000 with the current levels of funding levels.

Section 106 monies

- 1.17 Section 106 monies are also collected by the planning authority, however these funds are very specific on how they are expended as it is normal for these to be agreed upfront as part of the planning process.

Walnut Tree Close Experimental Traffic Restriction: Update

- 1.18 Following the presentation of the public consultation report to Guildford Local Committee on 20 September 2016, officers were asked to continue with the preparation of both a one-way northbound option and a point-closure option for trial implementation. Members expressed a preference to see a point-closure implemented first, however since then a recommendation was made to implement the one-way measure first for the following reasons:
- a) The one-way measure is more straightforward to implement in terms of the number of turning areas that are required to be put in place.
 - b) To allow for a more gradual and less impactful period of adjustment for users. This period of adjustment may subsequently improve the ability of a point closure scheme to operate successfully.
 - c) To minimise risk to non-motorised users who might continue to expect the levels of reduced traffic on Walnut Tree Close associated with a point-closure if it were implemented first.
- 1.19 Detailed design is currently progressing well to enable comprehensive plans to be produced which may be used to construct the scheme. Officers are

engaging with private landowners to secure an agreement whereby identified parcels of land can be used as highway for the purpose of providing a suitable vehicle turning area. Equipment that is necessary to monitor the impact of the scheme on local traffic has now been installed.

- 1.20 At present, the earliest timeframe that has been identified for construction is Autumn half term, thereby minimising the potential disruption that may initially occur. This will be contingent on the successful resolution of a turning point for southbound vehicles.

Millbrook Car Park: Update

- 1.21 Part of the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package, the scheme will signalise the exit of Millbrook Car Park to enable traffic to turn right and head south. All traffic exiting the car park must currently turn left and enter the gyratory system, regardless of their overall direction of travel.
- 1.22 The scheme is currently at the detailed design stage. Officers from Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council are liaising to reach an agreement whereby the county council's contractor will be permitted to carry out the necessary construction work to alter the layout of the car park, owned by the borough.
- 1.23 Construction work is currently scheduled to begin in late January 2018.

Project Horizon (Carriageway)

- 1.24 Horizon is now in its 5th year of delivery. The programme was reviewed in 2016 and has been extended to include all 7 asset types. The Horizon 2 2017-18 (year 5) programme is online @
- https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/126279/Horizon-2-Guildford-v2.1.pdf
- 1.25 The new Horizon 2 rolling programme will include remaining schemes that are being considered for future planned works in accordance with the SCC prioritisation process. The entire rolling programme will be published shortly on the SCC website. Due to the current budget pressures we will not give timescales for these schemes and only provide annual works programmes where budgets are approved

Customer Enquiries

- 1.26 Highways & Transport received 37,104 enquiries and reports during the first quarter of 2017, an average of 12,368 per month, this is in line with the same period of 2016 but an increase from 2015.
- 1.27 For Guildford specifically, 4,464 enquiries have been received of which 1,961 were directed to the local area office for action, 96% of these have been resolved. This response rate is slightly above the countywide average of 95%.
- 1.28 Between January and March, Highways received 100 stage 1 complaints of which eight were for the Guildford area. In addition one was escalated to Stage 2 of the complaints process, no fault was found following independent

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investigation. Two were subsequently passed to the Local Government Ombudsman, who found no fault in both cases.

- 1.29 The Service is continually looking for ways to improve its service and has recently made improvements to the online reporting, allowing customers to see defects that have already been reported and track open reports. The aim is to reduce the number of duplicate reports and remove the need for repeat site visits.

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 Lengthsman initiative allows parish councils to undertake enhanced maintenance of the public highway. If approved however, the lack of funding to enable this element of localism this financial year, has been attempted to be mitigated by the provision of a vegetation gang in each division.

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 works agreed by the committee.

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Consulted:

As described within the report

Annexes:

1. Highways budget and expenditure for 2017/18
2. List of Area Task Group Priorities

Sources/background papers:

Local Committee for Guildford 13th December 2016: Item 11: 'Highways Budgets for 2017/18'

Local Committee Guildford March 22nd 2017: Item 10 'Highways Update'

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