

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)

DATE: Tuesday 19 September 2017



LEAD OFFICER: Robert Curtis, Transport Strategy Project Manager

SUBJECT: Guildford Sustainable Movement Corridor – Public Consultation

DIVISION(S): All divisions in Guildford

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report presents details of the public consultation for the Sustainable Movement Corridor: West (SMC1) transport project.

This project has been developed by Guildford Borough Council over the last two years and represents the first project from a package of transport measures which Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council will be submitting for funding this financial year. These works will be primarily funded by the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (EM3 LEP) with match funding from Guildford Borough Council, the Environment Agency and other sources.

This paper seeks to explain the process being followed and to make all Members of Local Committee aware of the proposed plans and the consultation; the consultation formally commenced on 18th September with two public meetings planned in October.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:

- (i) Acknowledge that the public consultation on the SMC1 is underway as described in this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure that Members are kept informed of the project and the consultation process.

To enable Members to provide their feedback on the proposals and share the information with constituents during the consultation period.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Sustainable Movement Corridor (West) is one of six projects which have been provisionally agreed between the EM3 LEP, Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council. The EM3 LEP has provisionally allocated a total value of £12.5m towards the six projects. Funding will be awarded by the EM3 LEP subject to the submission of a successful business case for each project to demonstrate economic viability and contribution to growth in the borough.
- 1.2 The public must be consulted on each project to allow local residents, businesses and visitors to shape each project and voice their preferences. The timescale for the EM3 LEP bidding process means that the Sustainable Movement Corridor (West) project must be consulted on and signed off by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport prior to enable the submission of a business case at the end of November. This will ensure that the project is able to commence on site by 2019 and ensure full completion by the Growth Deal 3 deadline of March 2021.
- 1.3 The business cases for the remaining five projects are due to be submitted to the EM3 LEP at the end of March 2018; these will be consulted on in January 2018. A paper will be presented at the December 2017 Local Committee providing more information on these projects.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The concept of the wider Sustainable Movement Corridor (SMC) was first developed by consultant Arup in the Guildford Town and Approaches Movement Study (GTAMS). The aim of the study was to develop a recommended long-term movement strategy to 2050 for the town of Guildford.
- 2.2 The SMC concept, “providing a priority pathway through the town for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport” (GTAMS Strategy Report, Arup, March 2015), was the “centrepiece” of the recommended strategy. Arup stated that “It can be used by existing bus services, but also by new services running only on this corridor, potentially Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or even a tram system, if there is significant growth in demand in future to support this type of technology.”
- 2.3 The SMC scored highly in Arup’s assessment of a variety of potential measures, Arup suggested that the SMC will have a positive impact on:
 - Modal Share
 - Journey times/delays
 - Bus Journey times
 - Bus reliability
 - Road Safety
 - Noise and Air Quality
 - Accessibility
 - Public Realm

2.4 the SMC is currently broken into 6 phases, these are:

SMC1 – West	Blackwell Farm to Yorkie’s Bridge
SMC2 – Yorkie’s Bridge	Yorkie’s Bridge
SMC3 – Town Centre Phase 1	Yorkie’s Bridge to Stoke Crossroads (Town Centre)
SMC4 – Town Centre Phase 2	
SMC5 – North	Stoke Crossroads to Slyfield Industrial Estate site
SMC6 – East	Stoke Crossroads to the proposed Gosden Hill Farm

2.5 SMC1 has been the initial focus for Guildford and Surrey due to the issues currently experienced along this section in terms of congestion and the lack of priority for buses which means they are often unable to run to schedule.

2.6 Annex A shows the scheme details in the form of the consultation panels which are to be displayed at the two consultation events. A full feasibility study for the project is underway and these plans continue to be subject to change based on technical data, economic analysis and the outcome of consultation and stakeholder discussions.

2.7 Currently the estimate for completion of the works is in excess of £8m, however the funding available, which includes a significant contribution from Guildford Borough Council, is less than half of this amount. This estimate is likely to increase as survey data is received and further design work commences. Because of this a key part of the consultation is asking respondents which measures they feel are the highest priority.

3.1 The public consultation will take place over a six week period, it started on Monday 18 September and ends Sunday 29 October

3.2 The main point of engagement for the consultation will be the Surrey County Council web site where visitors will be able to view the panels and fill in an online questionnaire.

3.3 The questionnaire will ask respondents which elements of the route they are in support of and also which they would prefer to see implemented first. The funding in the current bid is not sufficient to complete all of the route and so this information will be used to ensure that the most important section, or sections, of the route are treated first.

3.4 Following consultation with the affected Divisional and Ward Members, it was agreed that there should be two public exhibitions held to enable local residents without access to the internet and social media to learn about the proposals and have their say. Posters will be distributed to advertise these events. These exhibitions are scheduled to take place at:

The Park Barn Centre	10 October, 5:30pm – 8:00pm
Guildford Park Church	11 October, 5:30pm – 8:00pm

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.5 The timescales involved have meant that there are few options available in terms of the consultation process for SMC1. It has been necessary to commence consultation prior to presenting the plans to local committee in order to enable a bid to be submitted to the EM3 LEP by the end of November. Under the constitution, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport is able to approve the consultation and the submission of the bid, however, the Local Committee Chair and local Divisional and Ward Members have been briefed and have been able to steer the consultation process to date.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 Following discussions with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, the consultation has been discussed at the Local Committee agenda planning meeting and then with local Divisional and Ward Members in the area where the works are proposed.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Guildford Borough Council have allocated revenue budgets to the development of the SMC1 and the production of the business case by an appointed consultant in conjunction with Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council officers. The consultation is being managed jointly by both Councils with Surrey Council also utilising previously agreed budgets to produce the materials.
- 5.2 Subject to approval of the business case a total value of £3.85M is expected to be available for the project. £2.725M funding will be provided by the EM3 LEP with the remaining amount made up of match funding from Guildford Borough Council to complete the selected elements of the project.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 A full equality impact assessment will be completed as part of the business case submission process.
- 6.2 For the consultation, groups and individuals are targeted based on previous experience and which typically includes dialogue with the Disability Alliance Network. Letters and posters will be used to raise awareness of the project to those in the area who are not easily contactable by email, the internet or social media channels.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The proposals will affect all road users in the areas where amendments are proposed. The proposals will be publicised, local residents and businesses written to directly and any comments received given careful consideration.

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.

Sustainability implications

- 8.1 The improvements will promote modal shift which has implications for health, improved mobility, accessibility and reduced dependency on private vehicles.
- 8.2 The proposed improvements are intended to help reduce congestion, the resultant journey times and pollution. This can be particularly important on bus routes.

Public Health implications

- 8.3 The promotion of active travel and reduction in pollution are also significant benefits.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 **The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:**
- (i) Acknowledge that the public consultation on the SMC1 is underway as described in this report.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 The consultation began on 18 September and will be available online until the end of the consultation period which is 29 October 2017.
- 10.2 Results from the consultation will be assessed; any necessary response in terms of changing the feasibility plans and prioritising each section will need to be completed within two weeks of the end of the consultation. The changes to the project will be added to the business case and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport will be asked to approve these before final submission of the business case on 30 November 2017.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted: Local Ward and Divisional Councillors

Annexes: Annex A – Consultation Panels

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