

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)****DATE:** 19 September 2017**LEAD OFFICER:** Frank Apicella  
Acting Area Highway Manager**SUBJECT:** Highways Update**AREA(S) AFFECTED:** All Divisions in Guildford**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report provides an update on the 2017/18 programme of highway improvement and maintenance works funded by this committee. It also provides an update on other centrally funded projects being promoted in the local area.

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

- (i) Note the capital works completed and expenditure to date.
- (ii) Note the ongoing revenue works being carried out.
- (iii) Approve the introduction of the road table in North Street, as shown at Annex 2 (paragraphs 2.6.1 - 2.6.6 refer)

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The recommendations are intended to facilitate delivery of the 2017-18 Highways programmes funded by the Local Committee, whilst at the same time ensuring that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Members are fully and appropriately involved in any detailed considerations.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Surrey County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP) aims to improve the highway network for all users. In general terms it aims to reduce congestion, improve accessibility, reduce the frequency and severity of road casualties, improve the environment, and maintain the network so that it is safe for public use.
- 1.2 The Local Committee in Guildford has been delegated a Highways budgets to be able to contribute to the objectives set out in Surrey County Council's LTP, according to local priorities.

## 2. ANALYSIS:

### 2.1 Local Committee finance

- 2.1 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)	£36,363

**Total £77,272**

### 2.2 Local Committee capital works programme

- 2.2.1 A number of the programmed 2016/17 Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) were not completed before the 31st March 2017. This together with the revised budget restrictions, meant that only some of these schemes could be completed this financial year 2017/18.

- 2.2.2 It was approved at the June Committee that the 2017/18 capital budget be used to cover the cost of a couple of 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 (2016/17)	£ 7,000

**Total £36,363**

- 2.2.3 Both the Gole Road and Boxgrove Lane schemes have now been completed to budget.

- 2.2.4 The remaining schemes from 2016/17 together with the balance of the list of approved ITS schemes by the Transportation Task Group have now been compiled into one list.

- 2.2.5 However with the current levels of funding, this list of projects is undeliverable, as it is currently valued in excess of £420,000.

- 2.2.6 Due to the committee reduction in funding and to enable simpler prioritisation of these Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS), each one has been scored by way of CASEE (Congestion, Accessibility, Safety, Environment, & Economy) assessment.

- 2.2.7 Using the approved countywide model each scheme now has a benefit cost, and a ranking provided. **Annex 1** details the schemes and their relative ranking.

#### **Local Committee revenue works programme**

- 2.2.8 Many new bids and requests for increased allocations had been received earlier in the year. 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.
- 2.2.9 In order to attempt to somewhat lessen the impact of this, it was agreed at the June committee 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. This work has been ongoing throughout the summer months.

#### **Parking**

- 2.2.10 Parking updates are provided directly to the Committee by Guildford Borough Council Officers as required under mini agency agreement with SCC.

#### **Other highway related matters**

### **2.3 Customer services**

- 2.3.1 The total number of enquiries received for the six months between January and June 2017 is 65,281, an average of 10,880 per month. The average for the first quarter January to March was 12,368 per month. The second quarter generally sees a reduction in enquiries and this is line with the seasonal trend. Compared to the same period last year this is a reduction of approximately 11%, for January to June 2016, 73,632 were received at an average of 12,272. The Service has been working hard to improve the information available to residents and customers to remove the need for them to contact us about routine matters and this reduction can be partly attributed to this work.
- 2.3.2 For Guildford specifically, 7,843 enquiries have been received since January of which 3,870 (49%) were directed to the local area office for action, of these 96% have been resolved. This response rate is slightly above the countywide average of 94%.
- 2.3.3 For the first half of 2017, Highways received 197 Stage 1 complaints of which 20 were for the Guildford area. These mainly concerned communication, service delivery and policies. In addition four have been escalated to stage 2 of the complaints process where the service was found to be partially at fault in one of those. Three complaints were referred to the Local Government Ombudsman but no fault was found in any.
- 2.3.4 The Service has recently undergone its annual Customer Service Excellence review. This is undertaken by an independent, external body licenced by the Cabinet Office. This recognised the continued improvements that have been made and has recommended retention of the award for a further three years. The assessment highlighted a number of areas of best practice including “the

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford)

investment in time to keep the roadworks information updated. The clarity and customer focused language used has assisted in Surrey being the most accessed area nationally on [www.roadwork.org](http://www.roadwork.org).” Members can sign up via the website to receive email alerts for works in their area. Surrey Highways & Transport is using two schemes; Runnymede Roundabout and a drainage scheme on the A22 to trial the use of proactive messaging. Customers can register to receive updates during the course of the works rather having to contact us or check the website for the latest position. If successful it is intended to roll this out to all major schemes.

## **2.4 Major schemes**

- 2.4.1 Members will recall that at its meeting of the 22 March 2017, approval was given for the Public Realm enhancements to the Tunsgate part of the town centre.
- 2.4.2 The scheme is being sponsored and funded by Guildford Borough Council (GBC) and implemented by Surrey County Council (SCC) through their contractor Kier.
- 2.4.3 Although there have been delays to the opening of the development, the highway works which commenced recently are continuing, and progressing in close liaison with GBC and the developer. This is to ensure that the highway works are expedited with minimal delay, whilst being programmed around deliveries and other necessary works, for the developer.
- 2.4.4 Local Members will also recall that Network Rail recently advised that their bridge on New Pond Road, Compton, close to the Guildford Crematorium, was life expired and required rebuilding.
- 2.4.5 Discussions were had with the 2 local MPs at an early stage, who supported the opportunity to improve and widen any new structure over the railway, however the huge financial implications of any additional widening were beyond economic reach of the County Council at this time.
- 2.4.6 Network Rail will now replace the bridge like for like, however the road will require a road closure during the main construction phase of the works.
- 2.4.6 SCC officers have met with Network Rail, their Consultants, and contractors. The initial programme indicates that the current plan is to close the road around the times they have track possession, which is currently shown to be from early March 2018 until early July 2018.
- 2.4.7 A full diversion route will be provided throughout this time and both SCC and Network Rail's public relations team will be working to keep residents, drivers, and members fully updated.

## **2.5 Centrally funded maintenance**

- 2.5.1 Operation Horizon reports for 2017-18 are available on the Surrey County Council website. These reports list roads that are due to be treated in the current Financial Year 2017-18.
- 2.5.2 Also on the same page of the Surrey County Council website are lists of roads for consideration for future Financial Years.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford)

- 2.5.3 For more information please see here:  
<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadsand-transport/highwaysinformationonline/horizonhighwaymaintenanceinvestment-programme>

## **2.6 Road safety**

- 2.6.1 There has been a pedestrian accident problem in upper section of North Street for some years, with 5 personal injury collisions involving pedestrians since the beginning of 2014.
- 2.6.2 The Road Safety Working Group (RSWG) meets every 6 months to review personal injury collision data provided by Surrey Police. The RSWG is attended by Surrey County Council Road Safety Engineers, Surrey County Council Highway Engineers and Surrey Police
- 2.6.3 The RSWG, in conjunction with officers of Guildford Borough Council, has developed a road table scheme shown at **Annex 2**, which will reduce traffic speeds on both approaches and provide a convenient and safer crossing point for pedestrians.
- 2.6.4 Importantly, the scheme can be implemented without impinging on other longer term proposals for the rest of North Street.
- 2.6.5 The scheme has been designed with a view to implementation during 2018/19 when this section of North Street is programmed to be resurfaced. Hence, the cost of the table will be borne by this maintenance work, so there will no additional financial burden to this committee.
- 2.6.6 Any minimal additional cost required to implement the scheme (advertising, additional asphalt) will come from the central road safety budget.
- 2.6.7 The Committee is asked to approve the scheme shown at **Annex 2**, to enable this project to be developed for construction.
- 2.6.8 **Annex 3** contains information on road casualties in Surrey in the 2016 calendar year, and also the trends in casualties between 1994 and 2016.

## **2.7 Passenger Transport**

- 2.7.1 There was no update at the time of writing this report.

## **2.8 Other key information, strategy and policy development**

- 2.8.1 **North Street** - As a result of a site visit by SCC officers in 2016 and working with G-BUG (Guildford Bike User Group), several locations for improving the highway network in Guildford for cyclists have been identified.
- 2.8.2 A report that highlighted all these locations, including low cost improvements, was presented to the Guildford Local Committee at the March 2016 meeting.

2.8.3 From the report, and further discussion with the local cycle officers, three locations have been prioritised by the Cycling Programme Team;

- Collingwood Crescent cut-through
- Cunningham Avenue cut-through
- Nelson Gardens/Duncan Drive cut-through

2.8.4 The Transport Strategy Project Team agreed to fund the improvements for the above three locations and the Local Highway Team have now instructed the SCC contractors to carry out the works. It is expected that improvements should be completed within this financial year.

2.8.5 **Walnut Tree Close** -: The detailed design to facilitate the experimental traffic restriction is currently progressing well to enable comprehensive plans to be produced which may be used to construct the scheme.

2.8.6 At present, the first stage of the trial is set to begin on the 3 November 2017 with a section Walnut Tree Close operating as one-way northbound only; this is contingent on final legal details being agreed.

2.8.7 The trial is set to last for up to 12 months and would then be replaced with the second stage of the trial: an experimental closure of the road. Traffic levels will be monitored throughout the trial and officers will be able to return the road to its previous layout quickly if there are repeated cases of prolonged traffic congestion resulting from the trial.

2.8.8 During the weeks prior to the scheme going live communications exercises will be undertaken with local residents and businesses to provide advanced notification of the trial and arrangements for access. This work will aim to minimise the potential short-term disruption that may occur in the days immediately following implementation from people being unaware of the new road layout.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 Officers seek to implement the most cost effective measures which meet scheme objectives. Officers will revert to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member, or indeed the Committee as appropriate, whenever Preferred options need to be identified.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 None at this stage. Officers will consult the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Members as appropriate in the delivery of the programmes detailed above.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 The financial implications of this paper are detailed in section 2 above.

**6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	A well-managed highway network can contribute to reduction in crime and disorder as well as improve peoples' perception of crime.
Equality and Diversity	It is an objective of Surrey Highways to take account of the needs of all users of the public highway.
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	The Local Committee prioritises its expenditure according to local priorities.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report.
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	No significant implications arising from this report.

**7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 7.1 This Financial Year's approved programmes are currently in the process of being delivered.

**8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 8.1 The Area Highway Manager will work with Divisional Members, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to deliver this Financial Year's approved programme of works.

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**Consulted:** As detailed within the report.

**Annexes:**

1. ITS scheme assessment.
2. North Street Road table scheme.
3. Road casualties in Surrey 2016.

**Background papers:**

Local Committee (Guildford) 6 July 2017 Highways Update  
 Local Committee (Guildford) 23 March 2016 Item 12 Local Cycling Plan

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