



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)

TRAVEL SMART LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND (LARGE BID) PROGRAMME

4 MARCH 2013

SUMMARY

In June 2012, the County Council was successful in securing an award of £14.304 million in grant funding from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). This is in addition to the award of £3.93 million LSTF Key Component funding secured in July 2011. Both grants are for the period up to 31 March 2015 and jointly form the Surrey Travel SMART programme. As part of the Surrey Travel SMART programme, a total of £4.854 million has been allocated for sustainable travel improvements in Redhill/Reigate.

This paper provides a progress report on the 2012/13 programme, and asks Members to consider the proposed 2013/14 programme.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:

- (i) Note the progress made on the 2012/13 programme.
- (ii) Agree the 2013/14 Redhill/Reigate Travel SMART programme including the revised cycle route map.
- (iii) Agree to delegate amendments to the Travel SMART Programme to the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Travel SMART Programme Manager in consultation with the appropriate officers and Members.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council has been successful in securing £18.234 million from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to deliver the Surrey Travel SMART programme. £3.93 million was awarded in July 2011 with a further £14.304 million awarded in June 2012 as part of the large bid of £16 million. The aim of the fund is to deliver sustainable travel measures that support economic growth and carbon reduction. A total of £4.854 million of the large bid funding is allocated for sustainable travel improvements in Redhill/Reigate.

2. DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT (DfT) FUNDING UPDATE

- 2.1 At the end of December the DfT announced that it has given recipients of LSTF funding – including Surrey County Council - the opportunity to reallocate some spending on the 2012/13 programme into the 2013/14 financial year. In order to manage end of year delivery pressure, the County Council applied to carry forward a portion of the 12/13 funding and the DfT accepted our request at the end of January. The reallocation means that we can deliver our programme more effectively over the next three to four months as opposed to rushing projects through by the end of this financial year. It will be particularly useful for some of our capital schemes, as recent adverse weather has caused some delays.

3. PROGRESS FROM THE 2012/13 PROGRAMME

3.1 Bike IT programme

The Bike IT programme is an initiative to encourage greater levels of cycling in schools, and has had a very successful year in 2012/13.

In total 30 schools in the borough have now received a Sustrans School Mark award, recognising their efforts in encouraging pupils either to cycle or scoot to school. During the year, six schools in the borough achieved the Sustrans School Mark gold standard, the first to be issued in the country. It is worth noting that only eight out of over 1,800 Bike IT schools in the country have achieved this standard, further demonstrating the success of the scheme in Reigate and Banstead.

Annex A provides a list of the schools that have achieved the Sustrans School Mark standard during the Bike IT programme to date.

3.2 Walking and cycling

Due to delays in the programme, and the opportunity to re-profile funding from 2012/13 into 2013/14, the proposed cycle routes included in the September 2012 Local Committee papers are yet to be constructed. The County Council has work underway to develop a cycling programme, including improved cycle infrastructure standards. As a result, the re-profiling has allowed more time for the new standards to be reflected in route design and for public consultation to be undertaken. These routes will be delivered early in the 2013/14 programme. The 2013/14 programme section below provides more information on progress with route design.

3.3 Bus user improvements

Whilst there was no funding for the 2012/13 programme for bus user improvements, officers have been working closely with local bus companies to design improvement for the 2013/14 programme.

3.4 Travel planning, information and marketing

Journey planning website

Due to be launched in May 2013, a new journey planning and travel information website is being developed. The website will consolidate a lot of the information about travel on the Surrey County Council website and provide users with the following features:

- Journey planning by car, cycle, train, bus, walk, taxi and any multiples of these
- Linking real time information into journey planning, informing people of any likely disruptions during their trip
- A widget available for businesses, schools and other groups to put on their website to provide direct access the journey planner
- Links into realtime bus information at stops (see bus corridor improvements below)

Media broadcast screens

Plans are being finalised for media broadcast screens to be installed at Redhill Bus station and at both pedestrian entrances into the Belfry Centre. These screens provide real time bus and train information and provide a base for local businesses to advertise on. The screen content can be altered remotely in real time, providing an excellent platform for promotion of the Travel SMART programme and, where appropriate, other Borough and County Council services.

Negotiations are ongoing with Southern Rail regarding the installation of a screen in Redhill Train Station.

Business engagement

The first joint Redhill and Reigate Business Travel Forum meeting was held on Tuesday 5 February 2013 and was attended by 12 businesses from the local areas. This meeting provides a forum for businesses to discuss which local travel improvements could benefit them. These businesses are currently being given the opportunity to develop these proposals until the end of March 2013. A total of £50,000, half revenue and half capital, is available for investment in travel improvements in each area.

A suite of measures to support businesses in reducing their travel and commuting costs and impacts has been designed and will be available to businesses in 2013/14. More information on the measures is available in the key elements section below.

Community engagement

A fund of £60,000 each was allocated to the wards of Redhill West and Merstham for local community groups, charities and organisations to apply for funding to help make it easier to travel and/or reduce the need to travel by bringing services into the local community.

Both funding schemes were oversubscribed by more than 50%, and both days proved to be a big success with local residents and community groups involved in the process. The following projects have received funding this year:

Merstham			Redhill West		
Organisation	Project	Amount	Organisation	Project	Amount
Surrey Wildlife Trust	Woodland regeneration	£10,000	East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership	Buses 4 U pilot	£8,000
Age Concern	Minibus service	£6,000	Hi Days	IT and exercise for over 50s	£3,000
East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership	Pilot dial a ride	£3,000	Raven Housing Trust	Timperley Gardens adventure trail	£7,5000
Merstham Community Facility Trust	IT and Job club	£8,280	Raven Housing Trust	Rivers Estate playground equipment	£10,000
Nailsworth Residents Association	Cycle storage	£10,000	Redhill Youth Club	Youth get fit scheme	£900
Welcare	Toy Library	£9,053	Live at Home	Men's club volunteer car share	£1,500

Time 4	Youth skills and activity club	£10,000	Citizens Advice Bureau	Digital case worker	£10,000
			Welcare	Buddy scheme for parents with disabilities	£10,000
			YMCA Redhill	Bike Works project	£9,800

At the Merstham event we had over 90 people voting at the event, and in Redhill West we had around 50 people voting. Feedback from residents who attended the event has been very positive.

4. 2013/14 TRAVEL SMART PROGRAMME

4.1 The proposed full programme for 2013/14 is attached as **Annex B** and provides details of funding for each of the schemes. Below are some highlights to the programme being delivered in 2013/14.

4.2 Bike IT

The Bike IT programme will continue into 2013/14 with new schools throughout the borough being targeted. Schools that have achieved bronze and silver School Mark awards so far will be supported and encouraged to achieve the gold standard.

4.3 Bus Priority and corridor improvements

An allocation of £250,000 has been made to provide improvements for passengers and buses along priority bus corridors to benefit all services along those routes. The bus routes to be considered are 100, 400, 405, 420/460, 424, 430/435.

These measures will include raised kerbing, bus stop infrastructure upgrades, standardising bus stop layout and alignment, signage, and other information and accessibility improvements. Intelligent bus priority will be installed for buses at traffic signalised junctions. Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) display screens will be installed in areas of high passenger throughput, along with other RTPI system improvements including web/mobile/smartphone information and 'media broadcast' displays to provide realtime bus and rail information alongside other travel related messages.

These bus corridors are served by a high level of bus routes, linking residential areas to centres of employment and potential additional economic growth. Site survey work is in progress to identify specific sites for improvements along these corridors that will lead to greater bus patronage and improved accessibility. This work is being

progressed in consultation with bus operators, SCC Highways and other stakeholders.

4.4 Walking and cycling

In 2013/14 a number of new cycle routes will be introduced with £220,000 worth of funding available (including £61,000 of funding originally earmarked for spending in 2012/13). A revised map of cycle routes is available as **Annex C**.

It is proposed to revise Route 1A, re-routing it via Battlebridge Road, and use Frenches Road, Wiggie Lane and St Anne's Road to reach the town centre via the wider footway in Station Road, proposed as part of the Balanced Network Transport Scheme for Redhill Town Centre. Should the committee approve this revision, public consultation on the route will take place in March 2013.

Also in an advanced stage of design is Route 1B which connects Coles Mead residents to businesses in the Holmethorpe Industrial Estate.

A walking strategy to be implemented in 2013/14 is currently being developed and will be submitted to the Reigate and Banstead Local Committee LSTF task group in July 2013 for consideration. This strategy will include proposed improvements to footways and other pedestrian improvements, and a social marketing strategy to encourage people to spend more time walking around Redhill and Reigate.

4.5 Information, travel planning and marketing

Journey Planning website

Phase 2 development of the journey planner website is to include a registration function where residents will be able to input their regular journeys, primarily for driving, cycling, bus and train, and receive email alerts to advise of any disruptions.

Live SMART hubs

During 2012/13 a business plan has been developed in conjunction with local partners such as the YMCA to deliver Live SMART hubs in Redhill and Merstham. These hubs are physical locations that provide a range of services to local residents and visitors to help encourage people to use sustainable travel, and also provide access to services and skills to help people find jobs.

Both the Live SMART hubs, which are due to open in mid March 2013, will be provided with funding to continue their work in 2013/14. The key activities and services each hub provides are:

Redhill Hub	Merstham Hub
Cycle maintenance and skills training	Cycle maintenance and skills classes for NEETs, providing qualifications
Refurbished cycle rental and Sales	Refurbished cycle rental and Sales
Travel planning and information service	Pop up travel clinics
Health check and referral scheme – promoting active travel	Bike maintenance clinic
Space for community groups	

4.6 Community funding programme

As 2013/14 will be a full year programme for Travel SMART it is proposed to increase the amount of funding available to both Merstham and Redhill West wards to £100,000.

To ease administration of smaller bids, it is also proposed to set up a community panel of local councillors and other community representatives to decide upon smaller bids (up to £3,000). **Annex D** provides more detail about the structure and governance of these panels.

There will be three rounds of funding during the year, with two windows for groups to bid for smaller projects up to £3,000, and one window for larger projects, with applications accepted for up to £10,000. £30,000 will be made available for the smaller, and £60,000 available for the larger application rounds. The remaining £10,000 will provide a contingency fund for the LSTF task group to consider funding unsuccessful bids and other initiatives which fulfil the Travel SMART criteria and task group members would like to provide funding for.

4.7 Business Engagement

The following measures are being launched to businesses in Reigate and Redhill in April 2013:

- Eco Driver training sessions (simulator and in-car)
- Travel planning training (professional training offered to larger businesses)
- Personalised travel planning (either 1 to 1 or workshop lead with small groups – for smaller businesses)
- Sustainable travel roadshows (to include the benefits of cycling and car sharing)

4.8 Wayfinder Mapping programme

A new system of pedestrian wayfinding for the Redhill Town Centre area is being developed. This is being specifically designed to be useful to both visitors and local people. The system is currently being developed based on the same principles at the Legible London scheme that has recently been rolled out across the capital.

The system is designed to provide better information throughout the town centre for people who want to walk and will support and enhance their understanding of routes and destinations to enable better walking choices. It uses accessible maps of different scales to convey not only the immediate surroundings, but to show how the area connects to those around it.

Some of the benefits of introducing this system to an area include:

- Encouraging the use of healthier and more sustainable modes of transport;
- Improving public perceptions of the town as a friendly, welcoming place where people will want to spend time and explore;
- Better informing people travelling through and around the town centre, potentially increasing dwell time (and therefore spend) at shops producing economic benefits for local attractions and retail outlets.

The system will be based on an initial stage of data collection, observation and investigation which will then be used to inform the signage design and placement strategy. This stage of the project will involve 2 stages of stakeholder engagement (the first before design commences and the second once initial designs are complete). It is anticipated that the signage can be introduced in late summer 2014.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

The business case for the Surrey Travel Smart included a financial section that does not form part of this report and was approved by the DfT.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity will be taken into account during the design of schemes, but does not form part of this report. Where appropriate, full Equalities Impact Assessments are being carried out for individual elements of the programme.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. However, the planned improvements may well reduce the potential for serious injury collisions, improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, and improve traffic flow.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Reigate and Banstead Local Committee and the Task Group set up specifically for the LSTF, have been involved in developing draft programmes for the 2013/14 financial year. The Local Committee and Task Group will have an on-going involvement in shaping the programmes locally and monitoring progress during the project.
- 8.2 The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:
- (i) Note the progress made on the 2012/13 programme.
 - (ii) Agree the 2013/14 Redhill / Reigate Travel SMART programme including the revised cycle route map.
 - (iii) Agree to delegate amendments to the Travel SMART Programme to the Local Committee Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Travel SMART Programme Manager in consultation with the appropriate officers and Members.

8.3 Reason for recommendations

The 2013/14 programme has been developed in consultation with borough officers to ensure that it compliments other planned activity in Redhill / Reigate and that the LSTF funding can be effectively spent within the financial year. Any amendments to the programme will require consultation with all relevant county and borough Members and officers.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 The programme of works approved by this Local Committee will be developed further to enable implementation during 2013/14 where possible, and in future years as appropriate.
- 9.2 Planning work on the 2014/15 programme will be undertaken during the autumn of this year and the Task Group will be asked to assist the development of these. It is anticipated that the Local Committee will be asked to consider the 2014/15 programme at the December 2013 Local Committee meeting.

9.3 A strategy considering the legacy of the Travel SMART programme in Reigate and Redhill will also be developed during the year for discussion with Members in the autumn.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid – Surrey Travel SMART (December 2011).

Annexes

Annex A – List of Reigate and Banstead schools who have achieved Sustrans School Mark awards

Annex B – Proposed 2013/14 LSTF programme

Annex C – Revised LSTF cycle route map

Annex D – Structure and governance of community panels