

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD).

DATE: 21 March 2018



LEAD OFFICER: Robert Curtis, Transport Strategy Project Manager

**SUBJECT: Local Enterprise Partnership Local Growth Fund 3
TRANSPORT SCHEMES IN GUILDFORD – “Unlocking
Guildford” Consultation outcome**

DIVISION(S): ALL

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report presents the details of the consultation held on the package of projects known as “Unlocking Guildford”, which was previously discussed at the December 2017 Local Committee. The 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. The consultation closed on 4 March and a high level analysis of the results has been undertaken. In general there is support for each of the projects and many comments to take into account as each element progresses towards business case submission and then detailed design.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:

- (i) Note the consultation content and summary of results and that the proposed projects are to be submitted as part of a full business case to the EM3 LEP for funding and, if successful, subsequent detailed design and implementation.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure that Local Committee is content with the projects in the “Unlocking Guildford” package prior to submission to the EM3 LEP.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Six projects have been provisionally agreed between the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (EM3 LEP), Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council for the 3rd tranche of the Local Growth Fund (LGF3). 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 current allocation of these funds for each project is set out below – this may be subject to change as the projects are still at feasibility stage so cost requirements are to be refined. Additionally the match funding, whilst provisionally agreed, requires sign off from the relevant sources.

	LEP BID	Match Funding	Total Cost
Quality Bus Corridors	3,210,000	1,240,000	4,450,000
Sustainable Movement Corridor West	2,725,000	1,125,000	3,850,000
Blackwater Valley Hotspots phase 1 (South) and phase 2 (North)	1,965,000	1,965,000	3,930,000
A31 Highway Resilience Corridor	2,400,000	1,312,500	3,712,500
Guildford Town Centre Approaches	700,000	333,000	1,033,000
Guildford Flood Alleviation	1,500,000	5,100,000	6,600,000
Transport Total	12,500,000	11,075,500	23,575,500

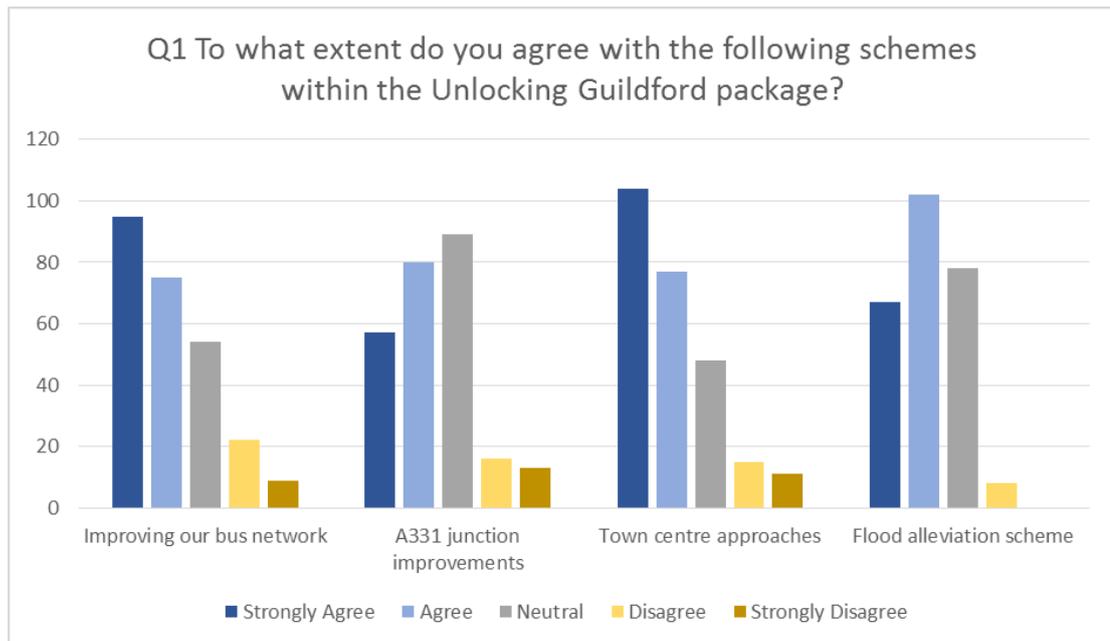
- 1.3 The package as a whole has been developed over the last two years and an overarching strategic case has been produced to demonstrate to the EM3 LEP that the package will deliver the required benefits for Guildford Borough. The objectives of the package described in the strategic case are:
1. To provide improved access by all transport modes but with priority for public transport and sustainable travel from the town centre into, and out of, west Guildford.
 2. To create a sustainable transport corridor between the town centre railway station and Royal Surrey County Hospital/Research Park and improve access between the town centre, the main residential areas and Slyfield Estate through improved public transport.
 3. To relieve traffic pressure on strategic routes into Guildford currently subject to very significant peak hour congestion.
 4. To ensure the transport infrastructure is available during periods of flooding and to remove constraints on development of a number of sites in the town centre due to flood risks.
 5. To create the conditions to ensure that growth can be delivered and sustained across Guildford.
- 1.4 The public should be consulted on each project to allow local residents, businesses and visitors to shape each project and provide feedback. As reported previously at the meeting of the December 2017 Local Committee, the business case for the Sustainable Movement Corridor West (SMC West) was consulted on in autumn 2017. The full business case for this project has since been submitted to the LEP and we await their decision regarding the funding.
- 1.5 The business cases for the remaining five projects are still due to be submitted to the EM3 LEP. The consultation on these schemes was carried out from 22 January to 4 March to enable public engagement to take place prior to the business case submission.

- 1.6 The panels used in the consultation are provided in Annex 1, these describe each of the projects; it should be noted that the A31 Resilience scheme is included within the A331 hotspots scheme for the consultation as there was very little additional information for the project to merit inclusion as a separate project on the panels.
- 1.7 Three consultation events were held around the borough of Guildford on Thursday 8 February and Friday 9 February 2018, comprising two exhibitions at The Friary and one at Tongham Community Centre.
- 1.8 The aim of these events was to enable people to talk to us about the Unlocking Guildford proposals so that they could find out more information, allow officers to gain evidence of support and feed their suggestions into the development of the project. The objectives were:
- To get as many people as possible to complete the online survey
 - To get people to complete paper questionnaires at the exhibition or take them home and post them to us.
 - Raise awareness of the consultation and the project by handing out flyers.

Dates	Exhibition open	Location
Thursday 8 Feb	09:00 – 13:00	The Friary North Street, Guildford, GU1 4YT
Thursday 8 Feb	16:00 – 19:30	Tongham Community Centre (Lounge Bar) Poyle Road, GU10 1DU
Friday 9 Feb	14:00 – 18:00	The Friary North Street, Guildford, GU1 4YT

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The consultation ran from 22 January to 4 March 2018.
- 2.2 In total over 300 people attended the three events and 255 people completed the questionnaire either online or on paper. In total, there were 279 written responses received.
- 2.3 A summary of the consultation and analysis of feedback can be found in Annex 2. The graph below shows the level of agreement expressed for each of the projects. It can be seen that over 50% of questionnaire respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with each of the schemes.



3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The package as a whole has been provisionally agreed with the EM3 LEP; the funding has been set aside for each of the schemes above, though there may be opportunity to move individual allocations between schemes as they are developed and more detailed cost estimates are produced.
- 3.2 The options are therefore related to whether any particular elements of a project are more effective than others in delivering the package objectives, and also whether there is strong opposition or difficulty in delivering some of the package. Since the consultation has not identified strong opposition to any of the schemes it is proposed that the package of schemes as a whole continue to progress as planned.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The engagement period between 22 January and 4 March 2018 represents the public consultation for the package though there may be further consultation on a scheme-by-scheme basis where traffic orders are required or where there is any significant change to any project that would require further public consultation.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council have allocated revenue budgets to the development of the business cases with the exception of the flood alleviation scheme, which is being submitted by the Environment Agency.
- 5.2 The majority of the capital funding is coming from the EM3 LEP. Each project requires match funding and each of the organisations providing the match will need to demonstrate that the funding is available before the EM3 LEP will provide the funding.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 A full equality impact assessment will be completed for each project as part of the business case submission process.
- 6.2 For the consultation, groups and individuals were targeted based on previous experience and included dialogue with groups catering for individuals with protected characteristics. Flyers, posters and public exhibitions were 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 were publicised as described and any comments received will be 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 and Public Health Implications

- 8.1 Many of the proposed improvements are intended to help reduce congestion, the resultant journey times and pollution – particularly with regards to bus routes. The package may therefore positively impact public health through associated air quality improvements and encouraged modal shift towards bus use.
- 8.2 Although the schemes are not specifically aimed at cycling and walking, there will be road safety improvements and the designers will seek to improve pedestrian and cyclist facilities as part of the design, this will assist with modal shift and lead to associated health benefits.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 **The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to:**

- (i) Note the consultation content and summary of results and that the proposed projects are to be submitted as part of a full business case to the EM3 LEP for funding and, if successful, subsequent detailed design and implementation.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

SMC West scheme

10.1 The business case for the SMC West was submitted in January 2018 along with an overarching strategic case which covers all the schemes in the package. Both of these documents are currently being considered by the EM3 LEP. It is expected that there will be a decision on the funding in late March 2018.

Quality Bus Corridors, Blackwater Valley Hotspots, Town Centre Approaches, A31 Resilience and Flood Alleviation schemes

10.2 We plan to submit business cases for the five remaining schemes to the LEP for consideration at the end of April 2018. A secondary date in late June is available to submit any outstanding information. The final business case for each project will be developed incorporating comments and suggestion from the consultation where feasible and based on technical reasoning and assessment of affordability and deliverability.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Local Ward and Divisional Councillors

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Unlocking Guildford Consultation Panels
Annex 2 – Unlocking Guildford Consultation Report
