



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(GUILDFORD)**

**TRAVEL SMART
LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND
UPDATE AND PROGRAMME 2013-14**

13 MARCH 2013

KEY ISSUE

The County Council has secured an award of £18.234 million in grant funding from the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). The grant funding is for the period up to 31 March 2015 and forms part of the wider Surrey Travel SMART programme.

SUMMARY

This paper updates Guildford Local Committee with progress delivering the 2012/13 programme and provides the indicative 2013/14 programme.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to;

- i. Note progress with the delivery of the LSTF schemes in Guildford .
- ii. Agree the 2013/14 LSTF scheme programme as proposed in **ANNEXE B**
- iii. Agree to delegate amendments to the LSTF Programme to the Local Committee Chairman and Chair of the LSTF Delivery Group in consultation with the appropriate county and borough officers and members

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey County Council has been successful in securing £18.234million from the Department for Transport's (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) to deliver the Surrey Travel SMART programme. The aim of the fund is to delivery sustainable travel measures that support economic growth and carbon reduction. The report of 12 September 2012 to Guildford Local Committee sets out the detail of the funding.
- 1.2 The DfT originally required that any unspent LSTF funding for the 2012/13 financial year could not be carried forward into the following financial years, and any programme underspend in each financial year within the fund has to be returned to the DfT. During December 2012 DfT offered local authorities the opportunity to reprofile their LSTF spends for the three financial years of funding.
- 1.3 **TABLE 1** below sets out the reprofile of this spend over the three years. The total spend over the programme period remains the same.

Guildford Reprofiled spend				
£'000s	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	Total
Park & Ride				
DfT Revenue	£0	£250	£250	£500
DfT capital	£350	£2,750	£900	£4,000
Total	£350	£3,000	£1,150	£4,500
Bus priority and corridor improvements				
DfT Revenue	£0	£120	£80	£200
DfT capital	£244	£726	£620	£1,590
Total	£244	£846	£700	£1,790
Walking & Cycling				
DfT Revenue	£0	£0	£0	£0
DfT capital	£219	£726	£408	£1,353
Total	£219	£726	£408	£1,353
Information, travel planning & marketing				
DfT Revenue	£573	£1,094	£954	£2,621
DfT capital	£0	£125	£250	£375
Total	£573	£1,219	£1,204	£2,996
Traffic				
DfT Revenue	£15	£70	£40	£125
DfT capital	£0	£25	£0	£25
Total	£15	£95	£40	£150
Total Revenue	£588	£1,534	£1,324	£3,446
Total Capital	£813	£4,352	£2,178	£7,343
Overall Total	£1,401	£5,886	£3,502	£10,789

2. ANALYSIS

2012/13 PROGRAMME UPDATE

2.1 Quality Bus Corridors and Cycling

Officers from both the County Council and Borough Council have been developing and delivering schemes which meet the agreed LSTF programme. Given the initial tight funding timescale these works focussed on “quick wins” and schemes which could be delivered more easily. During 2012/13 the following schemes have been progressed:

- Cycle/walking improvements A25 Parkway and Ladymead constructed
- Real Time Passenger Information upgrade
- New media display units at Guildford Bus Station, Artington and Merrow Park and Ride sites
- Bus stop upgrades and accessibility improvements along the service 462/463 corridor in Clandon, Ripley and Send
- A323 Aldershot Road Quality Bus Corridor Phase 1 works
- Initial design work undertaken on Quality Bus Corridor improvements with implementation planned 2013/14
- Initial design work undertaken on cycle schemes with implementation planned 2013/14

2.2 Onslow Park & Ride

The contract for the construction of the Onslow Park & Ride car park and access road has been awarded to Skanska. Skanska commenced works on site at the end of February 2013, with the car park expected to be completed during summer 2013. The waiting room and associated passenger facilities will be provided through a separate contract. It is planned that the park & ride service will be operational during Autumn 2013.

2.3 Information, travel planning and marketing

A new journey planning and travel information website is being developed. The website will consolidate the travel information available on the Surrey County Council website and will provide 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
- A widget available for businesses, schools and other groups to put on their website to provide direct access the journey planner
- Links into real time bus information at bus stops

2.4 Community Engagement

Funding of £140,000 was allocated to Westborough ward, and £70,000 to the Stoke and Stoughton ward for local community groups, charities and organisations to apply for. The aim is to help remove barriers to travel and/or reduce the need to travel by bringing services into the local community. Both schemes received a good number of applications over the year. The Community Funding Event days proved to be a big success with local residents and community groups involved in the process. The Westborough event attracted 50 people to vote, and 99 people voting at the Stoke and Stoughton event. Feedback from residents who attended the event has been very positive. Details of the funded projects are provided in **ANNEXE A**.

2.5 Business Engagement

The Travel SMART programme will deliver a package of measures to businesses in the Guildford Area. Travel SMART Business Forums have been established in two of the main business districts in Guildford; Guildford Town Centre and Surrey Research Park. The initial Business Travel Forums were held over the winter, with 15 businesses attending.

The Business Forums offer the opportunity for businesses to discuss and identify local travel improvements. The Guildford LSTF Local Committee Task Group, in consultation with the chair of the Local Committee approved the following schemes for the Surrey Research Park Business Travel Forum:

• Electric Vehicle Charging Point	£10,000
• Sheltered Cycle Parking	£15,000
• Royal Surrey County Hospital Travel Guide	£3,000
• Surrey Research Park map	£1,500
• Bike Promotion Roadshow	£9,500
• Car Share Roadshow	£6,500

These businesses also have the opportunity to develop further proposals until the end of March 2013. A total of £50,000, equally split between revenue and half capital, is available to each area.

PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14

2.6 Funding for the 2013/14 programme is profiled across the elements as set out in Paragraph 1.3 Table 1. **ANNEXE B** provides detail of the draft 2013/14 programme and indicative costs.

2.7 The proposed programme for 2013/14 aligns with the original aims and objectives of the LSTF bid and as previously considered by Guildford Local Committee. However, the programme has evolved through the process of consultation with Members, a variety of stakeholders and as a result of developing strategies. This process

has identified that the scope of the LSTF works should be considered in a borough-wide perspective, and that the programme should be amended to elevate the needs of pedestrians.

2.8 Following engagement and dialogue with the Highways Agency, it is proposed to develop the planned cycling and pedestrian improvements at the Tesco/Egerton Road roundabout to consider all transport modes, and widen the scope to include links to the Cathedral Hill roundabout. The objectives of this further work is to identify a scheme which can reduce traffic congestion, allow buses to operate reliably, and to offer safe pedestrian and cycling links along the network. Initial feasibility and design works will be carried out during 2013/14.

2.9 The original LSTF programme identified that a cycle path could be provided along the River Wey towpath between the A320 and the A25. Feasibility work established that this scheme was not cost-effective and did not meet with the required cycling standards. An alternative scheme at the A25 Stoke Crossroads junction has been developed, with detailed design work planned for 2013/14, and construction during 2014/15. This junction has been highlighted as a site with a history of collisions involving cyclists.

2.10 The cycling improvement programme has been reviewed to ensure that LSTF funds are targeted in a prioritised manner to enable sections of the network to be enhanced, meeting standards which will encourage less confident cyclists to travel to and access the employment areas of Guildford, as identified in the original LSTF bid.

2.11 It is proposed to develop a borough-wide cycle network and associated improvement plan. This will include identification of cyclist casualty locations which will not be addressed by the LSTF programme. Alternative funding streams will be required to deliver any improvements identified through this.

3. CONSULTATIONS

3.1 The Guildford Local Committee Task Group has been consulted on these proposals. Local consultation with members will be undertaken together with other stakeholders on specific schemes.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 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.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Equalities and Diversity will be taken into account during the design of schemes, but does not form part of this report. Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out for individual elements of the programme.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 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.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1. The 2013/14 programme will assist with meeting the objectives of the LSTF and will deliver enhancements within Guildford Borough to encourage the use of sustainable transport modes, supporting the economy, local businesses and local communities.
- 7.2. The 2013/14 programme will make use of available local contribution funding, generally through s106 agreements, which, coupled with the LSTF funding, enable schemes to be implemented which have been previously identified.
- 7.3. The Local Committee is asked to delegate any amendments to the LSTF Programme to the Local Committee Chairman and Chair of the LSTF Delivery Group in consultation with the appropriate county and borough officers and members to enable the programme to be maintained. These amendments will be reported to the next available Local Committee.

8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 Guildford Local Committee, and the Task Group set up specifically for the LSTF, has been involved in developing programmes for the 2013/14 financial year. Both will have an ongoing involvement in shaping the programmes and monitoring progress during the project.

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