

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

LEAD OFFICER: FRANK APICELLA – AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER (SW)

SUBJECT: HIGHWAYS UPDATE

AREA(S) AFFECTED: ALL DIVISIONS IN GUILDFORD



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This report provides an update on the 2018/19 programme of highway improvement and maintenance works funded by this committee, an update on other centrally funded projects being promoted in the local area, as well as details of the budgets allocated to the committee in 2018/19 and recommendations on expenditure of the same. It also includes a proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A320 Woking Road/Guildford Road to improve road safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Guildford Joint Committee is asked:

- (i) To note the committee approved list of works being progressed during 2018/19 as identified in Annex 1 and to ensure that any further allocations from the individual member Highway fund are made by the **1st October 2018**.
- (ii) To resolve to reduce the speed limit from the national speed limit to 50mph along the A320 Woking Road section (in Guildford) and to advertise the making of a traffic order as detailed in paragraph 2.3 and shown in Annex 2.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee is asked to agree the recommendations to:

- enable early progression of works orders. Any funding not allocated by the **1st October 2018** will be prioritised by the Guildford Maintenance Engineer to ensure funding is not lost.
- increase road safety along the A320

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 Guildford Joint Committee has an annual delegated highways budget with which to implement measures that contribute towards the objectives set out in Surrey County Council's LTP, according to local priorities.

2. ANALYSIS:

2018/19 Budget Programme of Works

Available Highway Budget

- 2.1.1 At the full Council meeting of 6 February 2018 it was agreed to establish a new Member Local Highway Fund from 2018/19 of £7.5k per divisional member, rising to £10k in 2019/20 and £15k in 2020/21
- 2.1.2 Additionally the countywide devolved Committee revenue budget has increased from £450k in 2017/18 to £1.85m in 2018/19. It is proposed to rise to £2m in 2019/20 and £2.5m by 2020/21.
- 2.1.3 This is to be allocated equally across the 11 Committees equating to £168,182 of revenue monies per Committee.
- 2.1.4 The countywide devolved Capital will remain at £400k for 2018/19, and again this is to be shared equally between the 11 committees, equating to £36,363.
- 2.1.5 *In summary:-*

Budget	Amount
Capital maintenance	£ 36,363
Revenue maintenance	£168,182
Revenue Highway Fund (£7500 per divisional member)	£ 75,000

Programme of Works

Capital

- 2.1.6 Annex 1 identifies the programme of capital works approved to be implemented during this financial year at a total forecast estimate of £144,500.
- 2.1.7 It is proposed to convene a Member Workshop in the autumn, ahead of the 'Infrastructure Delivery and Transport Working Group (to be constituted at the 19 September Joint Committee)' to explain the scheme prioritisation system and also take the opportunity to reassess the Local Transport Plan (LTP) list of capital schemes.

Revenue

- 2.1.8 Annex 1 also identifies the programme of revenue works to implemented in the coming year at a total forecast estimate of £60,000
- 2.1.9 It was also agreed to continue utilising a community gang for small ad hoc vegetation works throughout the year which has proved successful and well received in the past.
- 2.1.10 The £7500 Highway fund per divisional member needs to be allocated to enable early commitment to contractors for proposed expenditure. Could members who have not yet provided their choices please let the Area Manager have these as soon as possible to ensure that these proposals can be programmed and avoid the funding being lost.
- 2.1.11 Annex 1 also identifies the divisional member expenditure currently planned from the Highways fund allocation.

Other highway related matters

2.2 Customer services

- 2.2.1 The total number of enquiries received for the six months between January and June 2018 is 91,245, an average of 15,208 per month. This is a 40% increase on the number received during the same period in 2017 and reflects the huge effect of the severe weather and subsequent defects.
- 2.2.2 For Guildford specifically, 10,926 enquiries have been received since January of which 4731 (43%) were directed to the local area office for action, of these 93% have been resolved. This response rate is in line with the countywide average.
- 2.2.3 For the first half of 2018, Highways received 162 Stage 1 complaints (down 18% from 2017) of which 13 were for the Guildford area. In addition three have been escalated to stage 2 of the complaints process where the service was found to be partially at fault in one of those.

2.3 Road Safety

A320 Woking Road/Guildford Road – speed limit reduction

- 2.3.1 It is proposed to reduce the speed limit from the national speed limit to 50 mph. A reduction to the speed limit on that section of A320 should improve road safety, as shown in Annex 2.
- 2.3.2 The proposal is predominantly in the Woking area however a short section of A320 is in the Guildford area, so a resolution from the Woking Joint Committee is also required ahead of advertising the traffic Order.
- 2.3.3 There have been 7 Personal injury collisions (PICs) at the Burdeshott and Woking Road junction alone during the last three years. There have also been 9 PICs, during the last 3 years, on the assessed length of Guildford Road A320, Mayford. One of the PICs resulted in a fatality.
- 2.3.4 The average mean speed for northbound and southbound traffic were 47.6mph and 47.2mph respectively. These results meet the Surrey County

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Council's speed management policy for reduction of speed limit from 60mph to 50mph in a rural single carriageway.

- 2.3.5 Consultation has been carried out by the police and they support the proposal.
- 2.3.6 Funding for the speed limit alterations will be provided by the Road Safety team.

2.4 Winter Service

- 2.4.1 The Cold Weather Plan sets out the Winter Service for treating the highway in order to prevent ice from forming (precautionary salting), to melt ice and snow that has already formed (post salting), and removal of snow in a snow event.
- 2.4.2 As in previous years, members will be sent an electronic copy of the 2018-19 Cold Weather Plan along with links to revised 2018-19 gritting routes prior the commencement of the Winter Season.
- 2.4.3 County Councillors can request and pay for new grit bins, or extension of use of an existing grit bin, by contacting the Maintenance Engineer, who will advise.

2.5 Major schemes

- 2.5.1 The following provides updates on schemes within the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package that are being progressed. The package was agreed by the Local Committee in December 2015 and awarded funding by the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership in the Spring of 2016.

A25 / A320 Stoke Crossroads

- 2.5.2 Construction work began on the Stoke Crossroads improvement scheme on the 30 July 2018 and has progressed well to date.
- 2.5.3 The current programme plans for the scheme to be completed in four phases, with the first phase of work covering the A25 approaches to the junction (Ladymead and Parkway). The majority of works are being carried out at night (8am-6pm) to keep traffic disruption to a minimum.
- 2.5.4 Communication activities are ongoing to ensure local residents and business are kept informed. Letter drops to properties near the junction were carried out in advance of work commencing. Regular updates are posted on social media notifications as well as the <http://a25.today> website where visitors can view the latest works stages plan, overnight diversion routes and can also sign up to a monthly email newsletter.

A25 cycle corridor (Parkway)

- 2.5.5 Construction is now nearing completion on the shared-use path along the south side of the A25 Parkway.
- 2.5.6 The final section of work on the western end of the scheme is expected to be carried out in September once the site compound at Stoke Crossroads has been relocated.

Walnut Tree Close

- 2.5.7 Officers have reached provisional agreement with Guildford Borough Council to use an area of land to the north of the railway bridge for a turning area for the trial one-way operation scheme. Further engagement is now taking place with the Environment Agency regarding the use of the proposed site.
- 2.5.8 Further information will be provided as the scheme develops and it is planned for plenty of notice to be given prior to work commencing.

A25 cycle corridor (Woodbridge)

- 2.5.9 This scheme will fill another gap along the A25 cycle corridor by providing a shared use path of up to 3 metres wide on the south side of the A25 between Woodbridge Road and Woodbridge Meadows.
- 2.5.10 As reported to Local Committee in June, the work is expected to start in January 2019, although this will be subject to weather conditions and the completion of the Stoke Crossroads scheme by the end of 2018.

Farnham Road Rail Bridge

- 2.5.11 No update has been received from Network Rail at the time of writing this report.

2.6 Centrally funded maintenance

Onslow Street / Bridge Street

- 2.6.1 The construction of the road tables for this improved pedestrian crossing point is programmed to commence on the 1st October. It is proposed to carry out the works to the carriageway at night, whilst other ancillary works away from the carriageway during the day, in order to expedite the scheme and reduce the unavoidable congestion in this busy part of the town centre.

Horizon 2

- 2.6.2 Horizon 2 is the name given to the Council's Asset Management Programme for the period 2017 – 2021. The programme of works to be delivered for Guildford remains as presented in the annex to the March Local Committee and can be found on the website at :-

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/horizon-highway-maintenance-investment-programme>

Additional £5m – Winter damage programme

- 2.6.3 The focus for this has been on the Surrey Priority Network SPN 2 & 3 (essentially B & C roads) and the list of schemes identified for this funding is currently being assessed.

- 2.6.4 If additionally some A & D roads were suggested by members, then most of these have been removed from the list and will be considered for inclusion in the existing county programmes. There are however some A roads which are included on the list due to these already being categorised as a SPN 2 and having similar characteristics to B roads.
- 2.6.5 Officers have already started to walk these roads to determine what treatment (patching or Local Structural Repair) is needed in each of these locations and the extent of the work needed. This will be done over the next few weeks, and it is hoped that the majority of this work will be effected over the next 2-3 months. This is obviously subject to clashes with other programmed highway work that is going on around the network and our ability to find network space and permitting.
- 2.6.6 In addition to the £5m being invested during 2017/18, the cabinet approved on the 29th May to further investment during 2018/19 of £7m and then a further £8m in 2019/20 to improve the condition of the highways network.

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

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.
Human Resource/Training and Development	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 programmed and delivered as identified in Annex 1.
- 7.2 The £7500 Highway fund per member needs to be allocated to enable early commitment to contractors for proposed expenditure. Members who have not yet provide their choices do need to do so as soon as possible to ensure that the works can be programmed and to avoid the funding being lost.

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:

Annex 1 – Progress of Committee capital and revenue schemes 2018/19

Annex 2 – A320 Woking Road – Proposed speed limit reduction

Background papers:

Local Committee (Guildford) June 2018 Highways Update.

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