

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD) ITEM 10 ANNEXE 2  
(TABLED)

## **A Maintenance Strategy for Guildford High Street Cobbles**

Guildford's steeply sloping cobbled High Street is perhaps the most iconic road in Surrey, contributing to the charm of a historic country town which attracts thousands of visitors from around the world. The road served as backdrop to the finish of the 2012 Tour of Britain cycle race, as it will again in 2013, and was part of the Olympic torch route.

Areas of cobbles have been re-laid over decades through the length of the road. However, the majority are undisturbed so the overall appearance could be described as uniform with repaired areas discernable to the eye as well as sometimes having a different texture underfoot. Failing areas are evident where the joints between individual stones start to crumble, the cobbles loosen, and the surface drops below the surrounding road profile.

In the last five years both Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council have invested several hundred thousand pounds in repairing damaged areas, using differing techniques and with varying degrees of success.

Both authorities are now seeking to develop and agree a maintenance strategy for the High Street so there is a planned and funded programme for future repairs. The key steps in achieving this are:-

- Complete a full condition survey to establish failed/failing areas and residual life
- Identify the optimum repair technique which closest matches existing. This is likely to involve trial areas in the High Street itself.
- Identify funding streams. These will include SCC central maintenance budgets, commitments by the Local Committee, development contributions (environmental) and possibly private contributions.
- Review methods of delivery. SCC's term contractor May Gurney are engaged to undertake all repair work on the public highway and their input will be essential in developing repair techniques and delivering the work.

An update with further detail on this joint initiative will be reported to the June meeting of the Local Committee.

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

(vii) The Local Committee (Guildford) is asked to note the content of ANNEXE 2

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