

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Guildford Joint Committee is asked:

- (i) To formally approve the Committee revised running list of Local Transport Plan schemes attached at Annex 1.
- (ii) To note the committee approved list of capital and revenue works, together with the progress being made during this fiscal year, as identified in Annex 2.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee is asked to agree the recommendations to enable progression of works orders and expenditure of the Committee budget.

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 In summary the Committee budget is as detailed in the table below:-

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

Programme of Works

Capital

2.1.2 A Member Workshop was held on the 16th October to explain the scheme prioritisation system and also take the opportunity to reassess the Local Transport Plan (LTP) list of capital schemes.

2.1.3 A meeting of the newly formed 'Infrastructure Delivery and Transport Working Group (constituted at the 9th September Joint Committee) has also been held on the 7th November, where additional schemes proposed for the LTP list were considered.

2.1.4 The Committee revised running list of Local Transport Plan schemes is attached at Annex 1.

2.1.5 Annex 2 identifies the programme of capital works approved to be implemented during this financial year at a total forecast estimate of £144,500.

Revenue

2.1.6 Annex 2 also identifies the programme of revenue works to be implemented during 2018/19, together with the divisional member expenditure planned from the Highways fund.

2019/20 Highway Budget

2.1.7 Surrey County Council, along with many other councils across the UK, faces unprecedented financial challenges. The County Council have to find £250m to close the funding gap over the next 3 years.

2.1.8 Although budgets for 2019/20 are yet to be confirmed, early indications are that a share of a £2m **Capital Maintenance** allocation may be made available

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to the 11 joint and local Committees. It is further anticipated that this capital allocation will be shared equally across the 11 Districts and Boroughs and hence a budget of circa £180k may be made available.

- 2.1.9 It is also anticipated that during the next fiscal year there will be **NO Revenue Maintenance** allocation made available to the 11 joint and local Committees.
- 2.1.10 County Councillors may continue to be allocated a Revenue Highway Fund, however this may again be £7.5k per member as in 2018/19, rather than the anticipated £10k reported earlier in the year.
- 2.1.11 If this is the case, then it may be possible to amalgamate the nine £7.5k amounts to provide a more meaningful service delivery of revenue activity.
- 2.1.12 It is important to note that this is only an early indication and that the final amounts will not be ratified or disclosed until later in this financial year.
- 2.1.13 Once the allocations are known the Committee will be in a stronger position to determine on what and how to expend this funding.

Other highway related matters

2.2 Customer services

- 2.2.1 The total number of enquiries received for the six months between January and September 2018 is 118,041, an average of 13,115 per month. This is a slight reduction in the average for the first six months of 2018 which was 15,208 per month and is line with the seasonal trend where the summer months generate less enquiries. This also reflects the work undertaken to deal with the severe weather and subsequent defects.
- 2.2.2 For Guildford specifically, 13,675 enquiries have been received since January of which 6,513 (48%) were directed to the local area office for action, of these 95% have been resolved. This response rate is in line with the countywide average.
- 2.2.3 Since January, Highways & Transport have received 247 Stage 1 complaints (down 16% from the same period in 2017) of which 17 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 at fault in one but with no injustice to the customer.

2.3 Road Safety

- 2.3.1 An update isn't available to the Committee at this time.

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.

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- 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 A separate update within the agenda papers will be provided to the Committee.

Highways England Ramp Metering Trial at Dennis Roundabout

- 2.5.2 Dennis roundabout in Guildford has been selected by Highways England as the first location to install second generation ramp metering, and will be the first non-motorway junction in England to include ramp metering technology.
- 2.5.3 The ramp metering signals at Dennis roundabout are now installed on the southbound slip road on to the A3.
- 2.5.3 The ramp metering system uses part time traffic signals on the A3 slip road that control the traffic merging onto the main carriageway. This reduces the interference between the merging traffic and improves the traffic flow. Vehicles may be held for a few seconds at the signals but this has been proven to reduce congestion on the main carriageway so joining is easier and overall journey times are reduced.
- 2.5.3 Ramp metering systems monitor the queue length on the slip road and release the queue if it backs up towards the start of the slip road, so that it does not interfere with the junction and the local roads. Ramp metering can be identified by the yellow backing boards on the traffic signals. The signals only turn on when there is heavy congestion, the signal timings can be greatly reduced when compared to traditional traffic signals whereby green times can be as little as 2 seconds.
- 2.5.4 The original ramp metering system was introduced over ten years ago. With the advances in technology and software, second generation ramp metering will respond better to changing traffic conditions and can connect with other systems to manage traffic more effectively over a larger area.
- 2.5.5 The system was activated on the 2nd October, and was initially operating during the morning AM peak only. A temporary wireless CCTV camera has been erected near the merge and will monitor the system performance for up to 4 weeks, and any necessary optimisation carried out to the system.
- 2.5.6 PM peak testing was commenced on the 12th November testing from around 4-6pm and will continue for several weeks.

Farnham Road Rail Bridge

- 2.5.7 The road over rail' bridge on Farnham Road located to the south of Guildford Station, is significantly weak and hence reinforcement work is critical in order to bring the bridge up to the required strength for the level of traffic passing over it.
- 2.5.8 Both Surrey County Council and Network Rail are jointly investing £4.8m to repair, refurbish and strengthen the 'road over rail' bridge on Farnham Road located to the south of Guildford Station.

2.5.9 Network Rail will be carrying out the works directly to their bridge directly. The current programming information obtained from Network Rail is suggesting that this work is being delivered in two phases:

Phase 1 – November 2018 – March 2019

Phase 2 – November 2019 – February 2020

2.5.10 At present the design solution is suggesting that there will be no impact on Farnham Road during phase one. There will however need to be some disruption during phase 2 of the works. The street works team will be coordinating these works, and any other proposed works locally, to ensure disruption to the network is reduced to a minimum.

2.6 Centrally funded maintenance

Onslow Street / Bridge Street

2.6.1 The construction of the road tables for this improved pedestrian crossing point have now been completed.

North Street

2.6.2 The road table and resurfacing works are programmed to be carried out during early January 2019. The kerbing works will be carried out first followed by the resurfacing element from the top of North Street, down as far as, but not including, Commercial Road.

Horizon 2

2.6.3 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

2.6.4 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.

2.6.5 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.

2.6.6 Officers are currently in the process of progressing these treatment works (patching or Local Structural Repair) deemed necessary in each of these locations as well as the extent of the work required. It is hoped that the majority of this work will be effected over the next 2-3 months, however this

work will obviously be programmed mindful of any clashes with other highway work on and around the network and subject to space and permitting.

- 2.6.7 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 In October 2017 Cabinet approved a pilot scheme for bus lane enforcement in Woking. This has been successful and the report considers expanding enforcement across Surrey.

- 2.7.2 It proposes enabling local or joint committees to decide if any bus lanes in their area would benefit from enforcement.

- 2.7.3 Link to Cabinet papers is provided below:-

<https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/documents/s51652/Item%2013%20-%20Bus%20Lane%20Enforcement%20V7%20issued%20after%20cabinet%20call%20over%2017%20Oct%202018.pdf>

- 2.7.4 Through the work of the LEP funded Guildford Quality Bus Corridor programme the existing bus lane usage will be reviewed together with the hours of operation, to determine its suitability for bus lane enforcement.

English National Concessionary Travel Scheme consultation

- 2.7.5 Central government provides councils with some funding so that qualifying older and disabled people can travel for free on buses after 9.30am and before 11pm during the week and all day at weekends and on public holidays. This is known as the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS).

- 2.7.6 In Surrey we provide just under £400,000 of extra funding for residents so that people with a disabled person's bus pass can travel free at any time. We also provide companion bus passes so that any qualifying older or disabled bus pass holders who need help to travel can take someone with them who can travel for free as well. Many Council's don't provide this extra funding to support the concessionary travel scheme.

- 2.7.7 It is proposed to reduce this extra funding. Disabled pass holders travelling before 9.30am and after 11.00pm on weekdays would need to pay. It is also proposed to no longer provide companion passes. Cabinet will consider the consultation response during early 2019 with any changes proposed to be implemented 1 April 2019.

Guildford Park & Ride

- 2.7.8 Stagecoach expect the nine new electric Guildford Park & Ride buses to come in to operation for January 2019. These buses will carry a new livery to promote the service and the environmental credentials of the new fleet. New marketing and promotional publicity will also be produced. From 7 January 2019 Park & Ride services will start earlier in the morning. Real time

information displays are being installed at the service 300 (Merrow) and 400 (Onslow) stops at the Friary Bus Station.

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 delivered as identified in Annex 2.

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 – Committee revised running list of Local Transport Plan schemes

Annex 2 – Progress of Committee capital and revenue schemes 2018/19

Background papers:

Local Committee (Guildford) September 2018 Highways Update.

Cabinet 30 October 2018 - BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT