

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: **20 MARCH 2019**



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 works funded by this committee, an update on other centrally funded projects being promoted in the local area, as well as details of expenditure on the budgets allocated to the committee in 2018/19. In addition it details the committee devolved allocation for 2019/20 and how it is proposed to be allocated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Guildford Joint Committee is asked:

- (i) To note the committee approved highways allocations and works progressed during 2018/19.
- (ii) To note the committee devolved highways budget allocation for 2019/20
- (iii) To agree the recommendations made in this report for utilising the available highways budget for 2019/20. (Paragraph 2.1.8 - 2.1.12 and Annex 1 refers.)
- (iv) To delegate to the Area Highway Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman and Divisional Member, the ability to resolve any problems encountered to facilitate highways scheme delivery throughout the year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The committee is asked to agree the recommendations to enable progression of highways 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:

2.1 Highway Budget

2018/19 Highway Budget

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

Budget 2018/19	Amount
Capital maintenance	£ 36,363
Revenue maintenance	£168,182
Revenue Highway Fund (£7500 per divisional member)	£ 75,000

- 2.1.2 Annex 2 identifies the programme of capital & revenue works approved to be implemented during 2018/19.

2019/20 Highway Budget

- 2.1.3 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.
- 2.1.4 The devolved Committee budgets for 2019/20 were confirmed earlier in the year and resolved that there would be **NO Revenue Maintenance** allocation made available to the 11 joint and local Committees.
- 2.1.5 County Councillors will continue to be allocated a Revenue Highway Fund allocation, however this will remain at £7,500 per member, as in 2018/19, rather than the anticipated £10,000 reported earlier in the year.
- 2.1.6 It has been approved that each of the 11 joint and local Committees will receive a share of a **£2m Capital Maintenance allocation**, comprising of a base allocation of £100,000 and the remaining £900,000 to be split by the number of Committee members.

This hence equates as follows:-

Committee	Members	Total Capital
Elmbridge	9	£200,000
Epsom & Ewell	5	£155,556
Guildford	10	£211,111
Mole Valley	6	£166,667
Reigate & Banstead	10	£211,111
Runnymede	6	£166,667
Spelthorne	7	£177,778
Surrey Heath	6	£166,667
Tandridge	6	£166,667
Waverley	9	£200,000
Woking	7	£177,778
TOTAL	81	£2,000,000

Available Highway Budget 2019/20

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

Committee Budget 2019/20	Amount
Capital maintenance	£211,111
Revenue maintenance	£0
Revenue Highway Fund (10 x £7.5k)	£75,000

Programme of Works 2019/20

Capital

- 2.1.8 A meeting of the 'Infrastructure Delivery and Transport Working Group held on the 26th February, a programme of works was recommended for approval by the Joint Committee.
- 2.1.9 The Committee revised running list of Local Transport Plan schemes is attached at Annex 1.
- 2.1.10 It was recommended that the £211,111 capital budget be expended as follows:
- £10,000 - Signs and lines
 - £35,000 - Progression of Bus Lane Enforcement Cameras
 - £166,111 - To carry out the highest prioritised schemes identified at Annex 1 to this value.

Revenue

- 2.1.11 At the informal meeting held on the 26th February 2019, members of this Committee were advised that there would **not** be a revenue maintenance budget for 2019/20, however there would continue to be a £75,000 revenue Highway Fund.
- 2.1.12 It was further recommended that the Committee resolve to approve the following:
- Allocate £50,000 from the £75,500 Highway fund (£5000 per member) to be used to buy in a Community Gang, as in 17/18 & 18/19, to enable these eminently worthwhile maintenance issues to be carried out. Members would have direct control in the input of works list to the Maintenance Engineer.

Other highway related matters

2.2 Customer services

- 2.2.1 The total number of enquiries received in the calendar year 2018 is 144,409 an average of 12,034 per month, this represents an increase of approximately 29% from the total received in 2017. This is mainly due to the severe weather experienced in the early part of the year and increase in defect reports.
- 2.2.2 The increase in defect reports is reflected in the balance of enquiries between SCC and Kier. All reports are categorised at the point of logging, either automatically through the website or by officers. Safety defects are directed to Kier with the remainder passed to the SCC local office for further investigation. During 2017 the average split was 53% SCC and 47% Kier, in 2018, because of the additional defect reports this has reversed to 53/47.
- 2.2.3 For Guildford specifically, 17,180 enquiries were received between January and December of which 8,775 were directed to the local area office for action, of these 94% have been resolved. This is in line with the Highways countywide average.
- 2.2.4 During 2018, 319 stage 1 complaints were received (a 12% reduction on 2017) of which Guildford received 27 and seven were escalated to stage 2. The service was found to be at fault in one of the stage 2 complaints following independent investigation. There were no complaints directed to the Local Government Ombudsman.

2.3 Street Lighting

- 2.3.1 A trial of LED lighting units is being carried out in Kingfisher Drive, Merrow, to demonstrate the difference in intensity and colour.

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 the revised 2018-19 gritting routes prior to 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

Town Centre Transport Package

- 2.5.1 This package of transport improvements comprises changes to road layouts to reduce through-traffic in Guildford town centre, improved provision for pedestrians and cyclists including a new Walnut Bridge and a new route to Guildford College from Guildford railway station.
- 2.5.2 It also focuses on the A25 business corridor, linking up existing walking and cycling routes to businesses in this area and improving bus priority and bus stop facilities as well as creating a better quality, safer and more secure local environment. The schemes are expected to be delivered before the end of 2020.

Walnut Tree Close Experimental Closure

- 2.5.3 The design proposals for Walnut Tree Close aim to reduce the amount of traffic using the road, particularly vehicles that use the road as a through-route between the A25 and the gyratory. To achieve this aim, SCC are proposing to provide a point closure for southbound traffic between the Meadows to Kernel Court.
- 2.5.4 A turning area will be provided just south of the Royal Mail site on the river side of the road for drivers who have potentially missed signs showing no through access to Guildford Station along Walnut Tree Close. SCC are currently seeking EA approval for this turning area, working with GBC countryside and property.
- 2.5.5 The plans also include a contra-flow cycling lane along the northbound only section. In addition, there will be traffic calming measures to reduce speed along the route.
- 2.5.6 Annex 3 identifies the location and the signing arrangements required.
- 2.5.7 The start of the experimental closure is programmed **before the end of summer 2019**. A stakeholder engagement plan is being developed in preparation for the start of the trial.

Walnut Bridge

- 2.5.8 The existing bridge over the River Wey will be replaced with a new and modern bridge designed for non-motorised users, linking Guildford Rail

Station to the Bedford Wharf area. The scheme is being delivered by Guildford Borough Council.

- 2.5.9 The design proposals for the new Walnut Bridge obtained planning permission in October 2018. Arcadis and Knight Architects have been finalising the detailed design and GBC are now preparing to commence the procurement of a Build Only contractor to start delivery as soon as possible.
- 2.5.10 The bridge is expected to be delivered **by the end of 2020**.

A25 /A320 Stoke Crossroads Improvements

- 2.5.11 The proposed scheme will improve the general flow of traffic at Stoke Crossroads, particularly in conjunction with the A3 off slips. It will also improve crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at the junction and will fill another gap in the A25 cycle network by widening the pathways on each of the corners of the junction to create a shared-use pedestrian and cycle facility.
- 2.5.12 The traffic signals will include the provision of intelligent services that prioritises late-running buses.
- 2.5.13 The Scheme is being carried out in coordination with Highways England's A3 off-slip works.
- 2.5.14 Construction commenced on 15th August 2019 and to date, the following work have been mostly completed:
- The laying of traffic signals and street lighting ducts across the junction
 - The resurfacing of all approaches to the junction
 - Provision of new traffic islands
 - Increasing the footway width on the north side of A25 Parkway
 - Relocation of all lamp columns around the junction and all the lamp columns retrofitted with LED lamps which are all in operation
 - Cabling and installation of traffic signals equipment
- 2.5.15 The improvement works on the north side of the A25 Parkway will continue to be carried out. The switch over to permanent signals is programmed next month (**March 2019**) following the resurfacing of the central junction area (which has been delayed due to the cold weather). Temporary traffic signals arrangement for the A3 off-slip will be provided whilst the Highways England scheme is under construction.

Guildford College Link+

- 2.5.16 The route for Phase 1 will use residential roads to provide a quiet and pleasant route for pedestrians and cyclists, connecting the new Walnut Bridge and the Bedford Wharf area to Guildford College. The scheme will include the provision of directional signs, new controlled crossings and the provision of on and off-road cycle facilities. A stakeholder consultation is currently being planned in relation to the relocation of bus stops. A number of options are currently being explored to determine the optimum route/design for Phase 2 which would provide better pedestrian and cyclist connectivity from Guildford College to the A25 corridor.

2.5.17 The estimated start of construction for Phase 1 is **between Summer 2019 and January 2020**.

A25 Cycle Corridor

2.5.18 The existing off-road shared-use pedestrian and cycle facility along the A25 was improved as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund in 2014/15, however there were a number areas along the route that could not be upgraded to a desirable standard at the time. As such, there are sections of the route that are incomplete and act as 'gaps' in the network where cyclists must dismount or join the road. As part of the Guildford TCTP these gaps will be filled in, extending or improving the existing shared-use facility in the following locations along the A25.

- A25 Cycle Corridor Phase 1 (Middleton Road): Work complete during 2017/18.
- A25 Cycle Corridor Phase 2 (Woodbridge Road): Approximate start date between April and June 2019.
- A25 Cycle Corridor Phase 3 (Ladymead): Approximate start date between August 2019 and January 2020.
- A25 Cycle Corridor Phase 4 (Parkway): Work complete on south side during 2018/19. Work expected to commence on north side of Parkway between August 2019 and January 2020.

Millbrook Car Park Scheme

2.5.19 The scheme has now been completed. It involved the installation new traffic signals at the Millbrook Car Park junction to allow vehicles to make right turns out of the car park onto the A281 Millbrook Road reducing traffic entering the gyratory.

A3100 London Road cycle facilities and improvements

2.5.20 The section of London Road between the Boxgrove Roundabout and London Road Rail Station currently has an on-road advisory cycle lane. However the cycle lane is intermittent and stops in some areas, particularly outside Stoke Park.

2.5.21 The improvement proposals will provide a continuous cycle facility along this section of London Road. Crossing facilities will also be improved along London Road for pedestrians whilst the facilities at a number of the bus stops will be upgraded.

2.5.22 Detailed design is currently being carried out and the estimated start of construction is between July and December 2019.

Farnham Road Rail Bridge

2.5.23 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.

2.5.24 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

2.5.25 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.

Highways England's proposed improvement at M25 J10 Wisley

2.5.26 Surrey officers are working closely with Highways England who plan to submit a Development Consent Order (DCO) application to the Planning Inspectorate in Spring 2019. In the lead up to the Examination in Public, a Local Impact Report and a Statement of Common Ground will be produced by SCC which sets out the impact of the scheme on the Local Road Network and the residents of Surrey.

2.6 Centrally funded maintenance

North Street

2.6.1 The construction of the road table for this improved pedestrian crossing point as well as the carriageway resurfacing works are now complete.

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 This programme of works is ongoing, however this is obviously subject to any clashes with other programmed highway work that is also occurring on around the network and our ability to permit network space.

2.6.5 In addition to the £5m being invested during 2018/19, the cabinet approved on the 29th May 2018 to a further investment during 2018/19 of £7m followed by a further £8m in 2019/20 to improve the condition of the highways network.

2.7 Passenger Transport

Quality Bus Partnerships

- 2.7.1 The Quality Bus Corridor project fully commenced at the end of 2018. The match funding provided by Stagecoach has been spent by them on new electric buses which are already operational.
- 2.7.2 Detailed feasibility is currently being undertaken for the highway pinch point locations that were highlighted as providing the most significant improvements for bus reliability, increased journey times and improved bus patronage. This work will determine the specifics of the highway schemes that will be taken forward.
- 2.7.3 Feasibility work is also being programmed to investigate the locations for potential bus stops in and around Guildford for improved accessibility, new bus stop infrastructure and real time passenger information.

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 finalised 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.

Contact Officer: Frank Apicella
 SCC Area Highway Manager SW
 Tel 0300 200 1003

Consulted:

As detailed within the report.

Annexes:

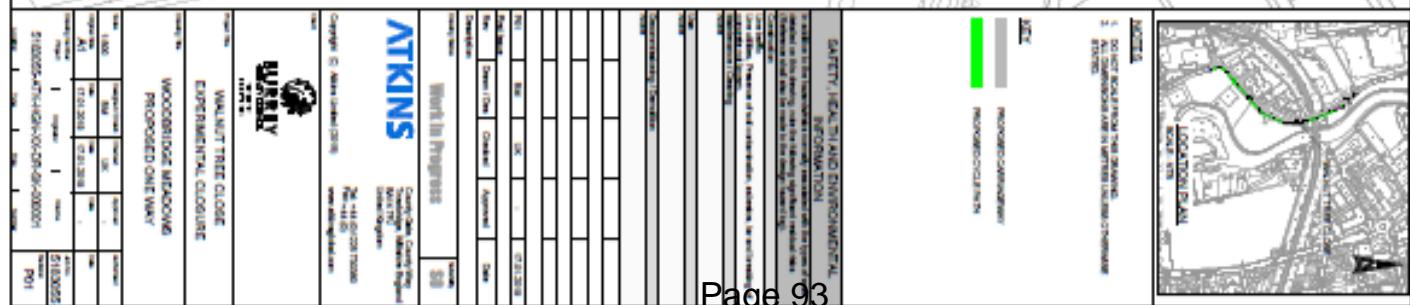
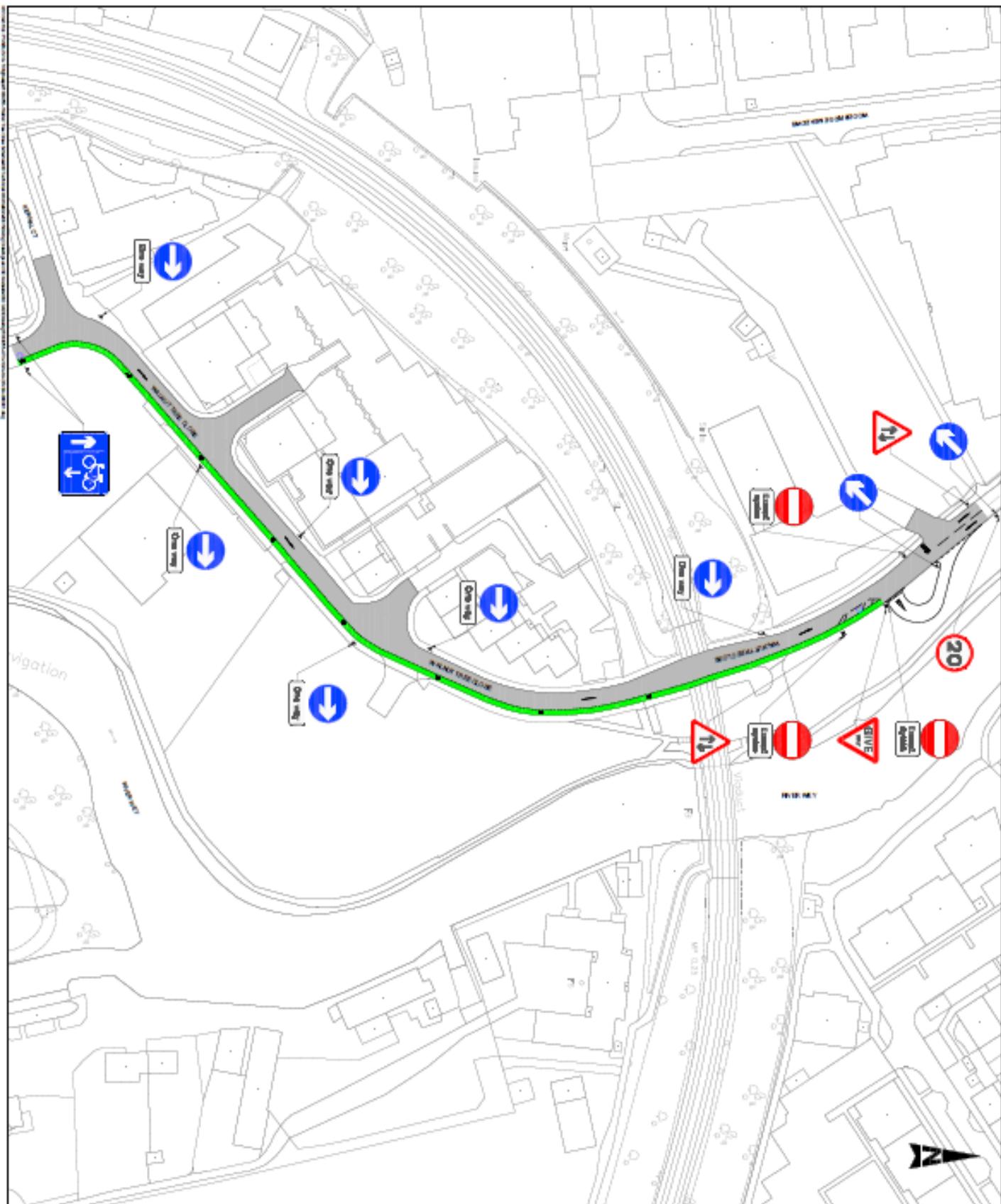
Annex 1 – Committee running list of Local Transport Plan schemes

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

Annex 3 – Walnut Tree Close

Background papers:

Local Committee (Guildford) December 2018 Highways Update.



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