

GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



GUILDFORD  
BOROUGH

**GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 3 JULY 2019

**LEAD OFFICER:** CHERRIE MENDOZA – TRANSPORT STRATEGY PROJECT  
MANAGER

**SUBJECT:** GUILDFORD MAJOR TRANSPORT SCHEMES UPDATE

**AREA(S) AFFECTED:** ALL

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report provides an update on the programme and delivery of the schemes within the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package major project during the upcoming quarter of 2019/20 and an update on the position of Highways England regarding Designated Funds for future scheme development.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Guildford Joint Committee is asked:**

- (i) To note the updates on ongoing capital works that are planned and in delivery as part of the Town Centre Transport Package.
- (ii) To agree the advertisement of the necessary Experimental Traffic Regulation Order to implement the trial one-way closure scheme along Walnut Tree Close and that any representations be reviewed by the Transport Strategy Project Manager and Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Divisional Member (paragraph 2.5 refers).

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The committee is asked to agree the recommendations to enable the progression of the major transport scheme works as per the business case that was approved and funded by the EM3 Local Enterprise Partnership.

## **1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 The Guildford Town Centre Transport Package (TCTP) is package of infrastructure schemes being delivered between 2017 and 2020 to make it easier for people to get around Guildford town centre on foot, by bicycle and by public transport in line with Surrey County Council's Local Transport Plan (LTP).
- 1.2 After a well-received public consultation on the Guildford TCTP in autumn 2015, the Committee agreed for the package of schemes to be pursued and submitted as a business case for funding to the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The business case was then successfully submitted and approved by the LEP in 2016.
- 1.3 Following the award of funding Surrey County Council and Guildford Borough Council have been undertaking the phased delivery of the schemes within the TCTP.
- 1.4 Works substantially completed to date include:
  - **A25 Cycle Corridor (Midleton Road):** installation of shared use pedestrian and cycle facility on the south side of the road.
  - **Millbrook Car Park:** creation of a new signalised right turn facility for vehicles exiting the car park.
  - **A25 Cycle Corridor (Parkway):** upgrade of shared use pedestrian and cycle facility on south side of the road.
  - **A25/A320 Stoke Crossroads:** provision of surface crossing facilities across all junction arms, carriageway resurfacing, intelligent bus priority and more efficient signal operation for general traffic.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

### Guildford Town Centre Transport Package

#### **Walnut Tree Close experimental one-way closure**

- 2.1 Further to the update to the Committee in March 2019, design work and discussions with Guildford Borough Council and Environment Agency have progressed well and it is anticipated that we will be in position to begin construction of the experimental southbound one-way closure along a section of Walnut Tree Close / Woodbridge Meadows in August 2019.
- 2.2 The proposals to restrict through-traffic on Walnut Tree Close is a key first step in the Guildford Town Centre Masterplan produced on behalf of Guildford Borough Council to enable the residential transformation of Walnut Tree Close, enhance the local environment and improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. The reduced number of southbound vehicles using the road is also expected to improve traffic conditions at the junction with the gyratory.

- 2.3 In addition to the wider public consultation held on the TCTP in 2015, further consultation was undertaken in summer 2016 on proposals to trial a one-way closure option and a two-way point closure option on the road. Due to broadly similar levels of support for both options, the report to the September 2016 Committee meeting subsequently agreed that both options should be pursued by officers in consultation with the Transportation Task Group.
- 2.4 The availability of suitable vehicle turning areas has prevented the further development of the two-way point closure option, however a suitable turning area has been identified for the one-way southbound closure option and designs have now progressed to an advanced stage.
- 2.5 The designs for the one-way southbound closure are shown in Annex A making the road one-way northbound between Kernel Court and a new turning facility south of the Royal Mail site. It is recommended to Committee to approve the advertisement of the necessary Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and that any representations be reviewed by the Transport Strategy Project Manager and Area Highway Manager in consultation with the Divisional Member.
- 2.6 Pre-start traffic surveys have been conducted and monitoring equipment installed across the town centre to enable the impact of the trial to be measured. Experimental TROs are valid for a period of up to 18 months, however it is expected the majority of road users will have become used to the scheme and traffic flows will have normalised before the full 18-month period expires.
- 2.7 It is anticipated that a report will be returned to Committee within 12 months following the commencement of the trial which will detail the results and make a recommendation on whether or not the Experimental TRO should be made permanent.
- 2.8 The council's Works Communication Team will be undertaking a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan during the weeks building up to the trial to make road users aware of the scheme and plan ahead accordingly. Construction work has also been programmed to begin during the school summer holidays to minimise the works impact on local traffic.
- 2.9 Whilst it is expected that there may be some initial disruption within the early stages of the trial going live as users become familiar with the new road layout, the scheme has been designed in such a way that will enable its removal if required in the event of significant unforeseen or prolonged negative impacts on traffic.

### **A25 Cycle Corridor (Woodbridge Road)**

- 2.10 Construction work began as scheduled during half term on 28 May 2019 to replace the existing narrow on-carriageway cycle lane and create a new 3 metre wide shared use pedestrian cycle facility on the A25 Woodbridge Road between Woodbridge Meadows and A322 Woodbridge Road.
- 2.11 The improvements will create the final link along the south side of the A25 cycle corridor, providing a full off-road cycle route over the 2.5km between Denis Roundabout and Boxgrove Roundabout. During the works, the high friction

carriageway surface on the bridge over the River Wey will be resurfaced where it has deteriorated.

- 2.12 Works are programmed for a period of 12 weeks, some of which is being carried out under a lane closure or occasional night-time road closures. The phase of work requiring the closure of lane 1 is expected to be completed during the first 8 weeks.
- 2.13 To minimise the impacts on local traffic during the construction, teams are working on site both during the day and overnight to reduce the period of time where the lane closure will be in place. Traffic flows are being monitored during the work and minor alterations will be made to signal timings and traffic management arrangements where necessary to mitigate queuing on the approaches.
- 2.14 A stakeholder engagement plan has been produced and is being managed by the council's Works Communications Team. Works updates and information on night-time closures is made available via letter drops to nearby homes and businesses, local news media and social media channels. The main source of latest information on the works is the [www.a25.today](http://www.a25.today) web page where visitors can sign up to receive a regular email newsletter.

#### **A25/A320 Stoke Crossroads**

- 2.15 Following the March meeting of the Committee, all outstanding carriageway resurfacing works were completed and the new traffic signals were commissioned.
- 2.16 Highways England are shortly expected to complete works on the A3 slip road to the north of the junction. Upon completion of these works, the signals at the slip road and on the main junction will operate in tandem to enable signal timings to operate most efficiently.

#### **A3100 London Road**

- 2.17 Design work has progressed well during the past quarter on the proposed cycle route improvements along A3100 London Road between the junction with York Road and Boxgrove Roundabout.
- 2.18 Early discussions have taken place with Guildford Borough Council regarding the stretch of the route passing along Stoke Park. Further engagement is planned to take place with members and local stakeholders during the summer to inform the next stage of the design work.
- 2.19 The scheme is currently programmed to begin construction around October 2019.

#### **Guildford College Link+**

- 2.20 Design work and officer engagement is ongoing on the first phase of a quiet residential route that will connect pedestrians and cyclists from the new Walnut Bridge to Guildford College.
- 2.21 Delivery is currently expected to take place around winter 2019 and further updates will be provided to the Committee as design work progresses.

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford)

## Highways England Designated Funds schemes

2.22 Highways England have previously agreed to fund the feasibility design of the Guildford Godalming Greenway cycle project from their Designated Funds (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/highways-england-designated-funds>).

2.23 Highways England has recently notified Surrey County Council that due to a revised funding allocation, they are no longer able to offer Surrey County Council funding for the scheme in the 2019/20 financial year as per the following statement:

*“Due to an in-year reduction in allocation, schemes originally funded by Highways England, including stakeholder funded schemes, have had their funding either reduced or stopped. Unfortunately Surrey CCs designated funding allocation for cycling improvement schemes was removed by Highways England.”*

2.24 Surrey County Council has therefore written to Highways England to ask for clarity as to the potential funding for future financial years to progress the feasibility of this project. In the meantime Surrey County Council welcome the support and views of key stakeholders to inform the development of this key project to improve sustainable accessibility by non-car modes between the key centres of Guildford and Godalming.

2.25 Officers will update the Committee as soon as further information is available.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 None at this stage. 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 Public consultations were carried out on the Guildford TCTP as a whole and on the Walnut Tree Close scheme specifically in autumn 2015 and summer 2016 respectively.

4.2 Engagement on the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders have and will take place as per the council's statutory requirements.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 The schemes within the TCTP are fully funded as per the business case submitted to the EM3 LEP and form part of an agreed capital programme.

5.2 Non-delivery of any scheme within the TCTP would create a risk that the LEP may ask the council to refund any costs to date spent on developing said scheme.

## **6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS:**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications
Equality and Diversity	No significant implications
Localism (including community involvement and impact)	No significant implications
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications
Public Health	Set out below
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications

### **6.1 *Sustainability implications***

Increased walking and cycling, where it replaces motorised forms of transport such as the car, will improve air quality and reduce carbon emission levels, which is a key objective of the Surrey LTP. Passenger transport and modal shift from the car to buses/rail are a further key objective of the Surrey LTP. Transport is responsible for one third of carbon emission in Surrey. The council's LTP has a target to reduce carbon emissions from (non-motorway) transport by 10% (absolute emissions) by 2020, increasing to 25% reduction by 2035 from 2007 baseline of 2,114k tonnes.

### **6.2 *Public health implications***

Increased walking and cycling has a positive impact on the health of a person. The NHS identifies cycling as an activity which provides significant health benefits. The emerging Surrey Health and Well-being Strategy has identified obesity as one of the priority public health challenges.

## **7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

7.1 Work continues to deliver the schemes within the Guildford TCTP.

7.2 A recommendation is made to facilitate the necessary legal notices to undertake the implantation of the trial one-way closure of Walnut Tree Close.

## **8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

8.1 The Guildford TCTP project team will arrange for the necessary legal notices to be advertised for the Walnut Tree Close scheme, and make preparations for construction and implementation of the remaining schemes within the package.

**Contact Officer:**

[www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/guildford)

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**Consulted:**

N/A

**Annexes:**

Annex A – Walnut Tree Close one-way closure drawing

**Background papers:**

- Guildford Town Centre and Hinterland Masterplan (2015, Allied and Morrison Urban Practitioners)
- Guildford Town Centre Transportation Package Feedback (8 December 2015, Report to Guildford Local Committee)
- Walnut Tree Close proposed experimental traffic restriction (20 September 2016, Report to Guildford Local Committee)
- Highways Update (20 March 2019, Report to Guildford Joint Committee)

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