

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE**



**GUILDFORD  
B O R O U G H**

**DATE:** **3 July 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 2019/20 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 2019/20.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Guildford Joint Committee is asked:**

- (i) To note the committee approved allocations and works progressed during 2018/19.

**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:**

### **2.1 Highway Budget**

#### **2019/20 Highway Budget**

- 2.1.1 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.
- 2.1.2 As detailed in the March Highways Update, County Councillors have been allocated a Revenue Highway Fund of £7,500 per member for 2019/20.
- 2.1.3 The Guildford Joint Committee has also been allocated a share of the £2m county capital maintenance fund to be devolved locally.

#### **Available Highway Budget 2019/20**

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

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

- 2.1.5 £10,000 of the Capital fund was allocated for the provision of new signs and lines throughout the year, to be administered by the Local Team.

#### **Programme of Works 2019/20**

##### **Capital**

- 2.1.6 At the March meeting the Joint committee resolved to approve the programme of works agreed by the Infrastructure Delivery and Transport Working Group at its meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February.
- 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 As there has not been a revenue maintenance allocation for 2019/20, at the March Committee, all 10 members agreed to allocate £5k from their £7.5k Highway fund. This will enable at least some local revenue maintenance works to be carried out and administered by the Local Team.
- 2.1.12 Annex 2 identifies all the currently identified and approved schemes for 2019/20. However, county members will need to make their remaining choices for the £2500 left of Highway fund to enable works to be programmed during the financial year.

## **Other highway related matters**

### **2.2 Customer services**

- 2.2.1 Highways & Transport received 34,644 enquiries and reports during the first quarter of 2019, an average of 11,548 per month, this is a significant decrease from the same period last year which averaged 15,119 per month. This is mainly due to the milder winter.
- 2.2.2 For Guildford specifically, 4,958 enquiries have been received of which 2,041 were directed to the local area office for action, 96% of these have been resolved. This response rate is slightly above the countywide average of 95%.
- 2.2.3 For the first quarter, Highways received 62 stage 1 complaints of which 14 were for the Guildford area. In addition three were escalated to Stage 2 of the complaints process, one was partially upheld following independent investigation. One case was escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman; no fault was found.

### **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 2019-20 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**

- 2.5.1 This will form part of a separate update report to the Committee.

## **2.6 Centrally funded maintenance**

### *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 Joint 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**

### *Farnham Road Rail Bridge*

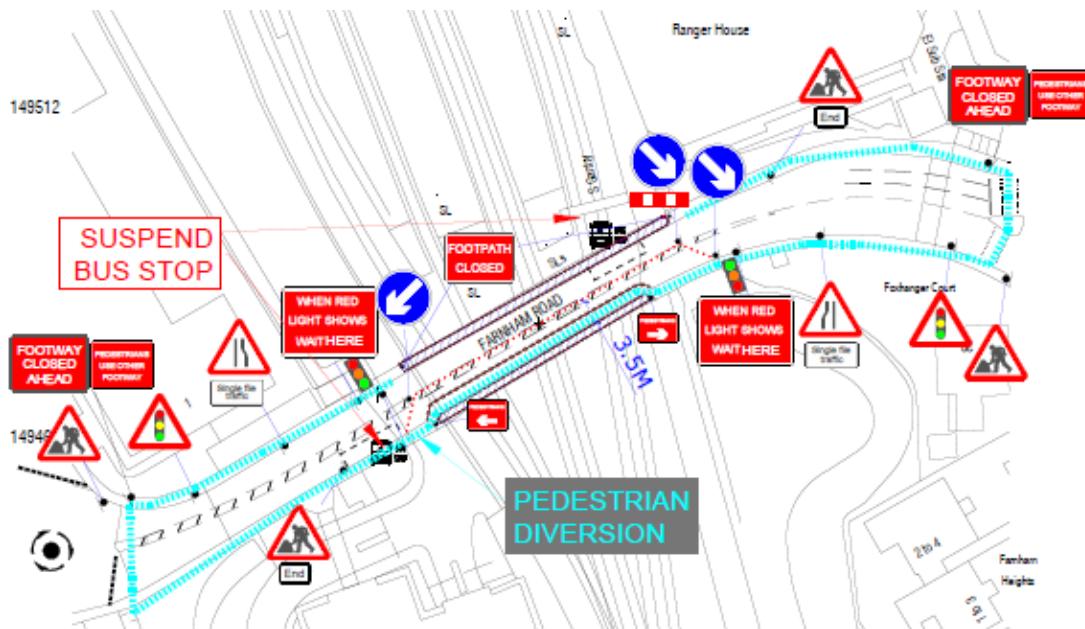
- 2.7.1 Surrey County Council and Network Rail are working collaboratively to strengthen the sub-standard structure which has been assessed as critically deficient for unrestricted traffic loading. The implication if work is not carried out to strengthen the bridge will be a 7.5T weight limit having to be enforced.
- 2.7.2 The scheme is essential to ensure the ongoing safety of the travelling public and economic prosperity of Guildford Town Centre.
- 2.7.3 Following approval of funding by Cabinet in 2017 the first phase of works commenced under a six-day track possession between 25/12/18 – 31/12/18. This part of the project was all completed from track side with no need for traffic management on the carriageway.
- 2.7.4 SCC and Network Rail have worked in partnership to prepare the most efficient programme within the second phase of work which will be focused over a critical six-day track possession period only available in 2019 between Christmas and the New Year. Unfortunately this will necessitate traffic management restrictions and a road closure to allow the steel deck plates to be removed during the December closures. During this period the bridge will be weak and not capable of traffic load bearing.
- 2.7.5 Due to the complex phasing of the works for the final element of the strengthening scheme the implementation of some highway traffic

restrictions will also be required to ensure the wider project objectives are delivered in advance of the six-day track possession.

- 2.7.6 The consequence of this is that the following restrictions are required for which Network Rail have requested the following street work permits:

**19/11/19 – 20/12/19**

22:00 - 05:00 - Traffic signals for single lane working during night time only.



**25/12/19 – 28/12/19**

24 hour closure - Full vehicular road closure with pedestrian access maintained.



2.7.7 SCC recognise that this is an important commercial period but the works are vital, and the plan mitigates disruption to a major rail station main line service. To further mitigate the impact of these works:

- SCC and NR will agree a communication plan to engage the public and all stakeholders.
- SCC and NR will work with Passenger Transport colleagues to minimise disruption for bus passengers.
- NR will provide bus shuttle services for train passengers.
- Works to the brick arch element of the structure have been completed early to ensure that the GBC Farnham Road Carpark will remain fully open during the Christmas shopping period.

## **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:**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
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 Joint 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.
- 7.2 County Councillors are encouraged to allocate their remaining £2500, as soon as possible, to ensure that the works can be carried out during this financial year.

## **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 running list of Local Transport Plan schemes

Annex 2 – Progress of Committee capital and revenue schemes 2019/20

### **Background papers:**

Joint Committee (Guildford) March 2019 Highways Update.

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