

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**LOCAL COMMITTEE (MOLE VALLEY)****DATE:** 12 June 2013**LEAD OFFICER:** Lesley Harding**SUBJECT:** Leatherhead to Ashted Cycle Safety Scheme**DIVISION:** Leatherhead and Fetcham East, and Ashted**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The County Council has been awarded funding of £595,000 from the Department for Transport for a cycle safety infrastructure scheme between Leatherhead and Ashted. The County Council are providing a further £255,000 of match funding to complete the scheme. This report sets out the next steps for consulting on the scheme and seeks permission from the committee to advertise any statutory notices that may be required for the scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to agree that:**

- (i) the consultation plan presented within this report is approved. The detailed designs for the scheme will be presented to the local committee's next meeting on 11 September 2013 prior to construction.
- (ii) approval is given to advertise any statutory notices, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and subject to no objections being upheld, the necessary Orders be made.
- (iii) approval is given to the delegation of authority to officers, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee, along with the relevant Divisional Member/s to consider, resolve and where necessary over rule any objections received in connection with the proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following a bid to the Department for Transport for two cycle safety schemes in Mole Valley, the County Council was awarded funding of £595,000 for one of the schemes, linking Leatherhead to Ashted. The outline of the scheme was presented to the Local Committee on 6 March 2013 and the committee highlighted the need for careful consultation on the proposals should the bid be successful. This report sets out how the consultation will be undertaken and the timetable for consulting with the key stakeholders.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 As part of its commitment to reducing cycling casualties and securing a cycling legacy from the London 2012 Olympic Games, Surrey County Council is developing a programme to encourage more people to cycle, more often, safely and conveniently.
- 1.2 In July 2012 the Department for Transport announced a £15m fund for cycling infrastructure in order to tackle cycling casualties and reduce barriers to more cycling. An additional £5 million was added to the fund in November 2012. Following analysis of cycling casualties across Surrey, the county council submitted a bid on 30 November 2012 for funding for five cycling schemes, two of which were within Mole Valley. One scheme was located within Leatherhead Town Centre, the other was for a scheme linking Leatherhead to Ashtead.
- 1.3 The outline proposals were presented and approved by the Mole Valley Local Committee on 6 March 2013. On 15 April 2013 the Department for Transport announced the bid winners which resulted in Surrey County Council receiving the second highest award of all local authorities in the country. The Leatherhead to Ashtead scheme was one of two schemes awarded funding in Surrey, for which DfT are providing £595,000. County Council cabinet have allocated a further £255,000 of match funding towards the scheme.
- 1.4 We understand that the other unsuccessful Leatherhead Town Centre scheme is on a reserve list of schemes held by the Department for Transport. Therefore we are hopeful that this scheme would have a good chance of receiving funding should more money be made available in the future.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 When the outline proposals for the schemes were presented to the Mole Valley Local Committee on 6 March 2013, the committee highlighted the need for careful consultation with residents, businesses, the Mole Valley Cycle Forum and the Divisional Members over the proposals. This report describes how we propose to undertake this consultation over the coming months and seeks permission from the committee to advertise any statutory notices that are required for the scheme in August.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 A project schedule for the scheme is attached as Annex 1. The different stages and activities we propose for the consultation are described below.

Consultation with Divisional Members

- 3.2 Prior to any materials and design drawings being issued for public consultation officers would undertake a site visit with the Divisional Members for Leatherhead and Fetcham East (Cllr Tim Hall), and Ashtead (Cllr Chris Townsend). The aim would be explain the scheme to the Divisional Members and to agree the best solutions to resolve any tricky aspects of the design.

Informal Public Consultation

3.3 We propose to undertake a comprehensive 30 day public consultation exercise from 16 July to 27 August. This would include the following:

- a website showing the proposals with an electronic feedback form.
- a two day exhibition on a Friday and Saturday at Park House in Leatherhead town centre. This would include exhibition boards describing the scheme design and a feedback form. Officers will be in attendance to answer questions on the proposals.
- leaflets delivered to addresses along the route and along neighbouring roads to advise of the consultation, the exhibition and website.
- local advertising to highlight the consultation, the exhibition and the website.

3.4 As well as the wider public consultation activities described above we would seek to meet with the following stakeholder groups separately to explain the proposals and seek their comments and views.

- Mole Valley Cycle Forum
- Ashted Resident's Association
- Leatherhead Resident's Association
- Leatherhead and District Chamber of Commerce
- Surrey Police Road Safety and Traffic Management Team

3.5 Following the informal public consultation, if necessary and feasible, the scheme proposals will be modified in response to the comments received and then the proposals will be presented to the local committee at their next meeting on 11 September 2013.

Formal Statutory Consultation Period for Traffic Orders

3.6 It is a statutory requirement of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to advertise traffic orders prior to the implementation of certain types of highway improvements such as raised tables, crossings or parking restrictions. It is proposed that any such statutory notices be advertised beginning in August for 20 days. It is proposed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local Divisional Members will be consulted by officers to resolve and where necessary over-rule any formal objections received in response to the formal statutory notices. Subject to no objections being upheld, the necessary Orders will be made.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

4.1 The section above describes how consultation will be undertaken.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 The council has been awarded funding of £595,000 from the Department for Transport for the scheme between Leatherhead and Ashted. The county council cabinet have allocated a further £255,000 of match funding to complete the scheme.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 In developing the county council's cycling programme the following impacts and actions have been identified:

Key impacts

Younger people – more reliant on cycling as a mode of transport

Older people – less likely to cycle due to mobility and other concerns; could be adversely affected by cycle routes that impact on pedestrian routes and access.

Gender – our research suggests women are less confident cycling in busy traffic although cycle casualty rates amongst males are higher than amongst females.

Disability – people with mobility problems and visual impairment adversely affected by cycle routes where they interact with pedestrian routes

Actions

Identify key routes that link school destinations.

Segregation of routes from pedestrians wherever feasible.

Development of segregated cycle routes designed with least confident cyclists in mind.

Achieve full segregation wherever feasible.

- 6.2 Road safety audits that consider the needs of all road users including those who are mobility impaired will be undertaken as an integral part of the scheme design process.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The cycle safety scheme proposals will improve the safety and accessibility for cyclists and other road users on the route between Leatherhead and Ashted. Increased cycling has benefits to the health of the participants; helps reduce traffic congestion and will reduce carbon emissions where it replaces other motorised transport. If successful the bid will result in improved accessibility to Leatherhead and Ashted town centres and adjacent local employers, benefiting the local economy

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

| Area assessed: | Direct Implications: |
|--|---|
| Crime and Disorder | No significant implications arising from this report. |
| Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions) | Set out below. |
| 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 | Set out below. |

8.1 Sustainability implications

Traffic modelling will be completed to check the impact of the proposals on traffic flows on the key junctions on the route. Increased cycling, where it replaces motorised forms of transport, will improve air quality and reduce carbon emission levels in the county. Transport is responsible for one third of carbon emission in Surrey. Surrey's Local Transport Plan has a target to reduce carbon emissions from (non-motorway) transport by 10% (absolute emissions) by 2020, increasing to 25% reduction by 2035 from a 2007 baseline of 2,114k tonnes.

8.2 Public Health implications

The new infrastructure will improve the safety of cyclists and other road users on a route that had previously suffered a number of cycling injuries. Increased cycling has a positive impact on the health of a person. The NHS identifies cycling as an activity that provides significant health benefits. The Surrey Health and Well-being Strategy has identified obesity as one of the priority public health challenges. The new routes will be marketed to residents and businesses and training will be offered to those less confident of cycling to encourage take up and to maximise the benefit of the new infrastructure.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 Following a bid to the Department for Transport for two cycle safety schemes in Mole Valley, the council were awarded funding of £595,000 for one of the schemes linking Leatherhead to Ashted. The outline of the scheme was presented to the Local Committee on 6 March 2013 and the committee highlighted the need for careful consultation on the proposals should the bid be successful. This report sets out how the consultation will be undertaken and the timetable for consulting with the key stakeholders.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 10.1 Detailed design will continue, followed by consultation as outlined within this report.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Area Highways Manager
Surrey Highways

Annexes:

Annex 1: Project Schedule

Sources/background papers:

None

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