

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE**



**GUILDFORD  
BOROUGH**

**DATE: 18 SEPTEMBER 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.
- (ii) To agree to the commencement of the formal statutory process for the introduction of right turn prohibition order, from Madrid Road into Ludlow Road and from Guildford Park Road into Denzil Road (para 2.1.6 refers).

**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**

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

2.1.1 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>

2.1.2 £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**

2.1.3 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.

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

2.1.5 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.

##### **Ludlow Road and Denzil Road from Guildford Park Road/Madrid Road - right turn prohibition order**

2.1.6 During peak times some drivers, travelling from the A3 direction, choose to turn right into Denzil Road or Ludlow Road to avoid the traffic queue in Guildford Park Road towards the gyratory system.

2.1.7 Denzil Road and Ludlow Road are residential areas and the addition of high volume of rat-running traffic, during peak times, creates safety implications for residents.

- 2.18 It is anticipated that the right-turn restrictions should reduce the number of vehicles using the roads inappropriately and consequently improve the safety for local residents.
- 2.1.9 Consultation has been carried out with the police and they support the proposal.
- 2.1.10 The traffic regulation order together with the necessary signing is being funded by Cllr David Goodwin's remaining Highways fund.

### Revenue

- 2.1.10 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.
- 2.1.11 Annex 2 identifies all the currently identified and approved schemes for 2019/20.
- 2.1.12 The Cabinet Member has advised that any Highway fund allocation NOT assigned by the end of October will be lost.
- 2.1.13 Members should have been receiving updates directly from their LHOs to what works are being carried out in their divisions utilising their Highway fund.

### **Other highway related matters**

#### **2.2 Customer services**

- 2.2.1 The total number of enquiries received for the six months between January and June 2019 is 67,592, an average of 11,265 per month. This is a 26% decrease on the number received during the same period in 2018. This reflects the milder winter and impact of proactive repair programmes including the severe weather funding.
- 2.2.2 For Guildford specifically, 10,455 enquiries have been received since January of which 4,578 (44%) were directed to the local area office for action; of these, 95% have been resolved. This response rate is slightly below the countywide average of 96%.
- 2.2.3 For the first half of 2019, Highways received 56 Stage 1 complaints and 25 were escalated to Stage 2, of which the Service has been found to be partially or fully at fault in 12 cases. In addition one has been escalated to stage 2 of the complaints process where the service was found not to be at fault. One complaint was escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman but 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. This has been successful and is now being rolled out across the county.

## **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 gritting routes prior 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*

- 2.6.1 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*

- 2.6.2 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.
- 2.6.3 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.
- 2.6.4 In addition to the £5m being invested during 2018/19, the cabinet approved on 29th May 2018 to a further investment of £7m during 2018/19 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 Both Surrey County Council (SCC) and Network Rail (NR) 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.

- 2.7.2 NR will be carrying out the works to their bridge directly 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 mean a weight limit having to be enforced to 7.5T.
- 2.7.3 The scheme is essential to ensure the ongoing safety of the travelling public and economic prosperity of Guildford Town Centre.
- 2.7.4 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 project was all completed from track side with no need for traffic management on the carriageway.
- 2.7.5 SCC and NR 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 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.
- 2.7.6 Due to the complex phasing of the works for the final element of the strengthening scheme it will also be required to implement some highway traffic restrictions to ensure the wider project objectives are delivered in advance of the 6 day track possession.
- 2.7.7 The consequence of this is that the following restrictions are required for which NR have requested the following street work permits.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Times</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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

- 2.7.8 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 service for train passengers.
  - Works to the brick arch element of 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.

## 2.9 Gullies

- 2.9.1 Surrey County Council maintain 20,995 gullies/catchpits, and 91 soakaways in Guildford. This is an important activity that reduces the likelihood of flooding on the public highway, and helps to keep roads and footways safe.
- 2.9.2 Not all assets are cleaned on an annual basis, as some require cleaning more frequently, and others less so, depending on local circumstances such as whether there are trees nearby, or the location is rural or urban.
- 2.9.3 Each year, the programme of cleaning is updated and optimised based on the condition the assets were found to be in when they were last visited. The programme is also adjusted to take into account local issues such as roads where access to assets is difficult due to parked cars and other obstructions.
- 2.9.4 For 2019/20, 7,498 gullies/catchpits have been cleaned, but no soakaways yet of the 55 due to be cleaned.
- 2.9.5 As the cleaning programme is managed on a Countywide basis, cleans in Guildford will take place throughout the course of the year.

### 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.

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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) July 2019 Highways Update.

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