

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)**

**DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2019**



**LEAD OFFICER: MATTHEW SALT, SERVICE MANAGER – MAINTENANCE HIGHWAYS ENGLAND**

**SUBJECT: A3 – HINDHEAD TUNNEL**

**DIVISION: ALL DIVISIONS IN WAVERLEY**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The following information relates to the A3 Hindhead Tunnel which has been provided by Highways England to reassure stakeholders and members of the public that there is continued commitment to ensure the tunnel remains fully operational. This shall be delivered by sustained investment to bring about improvements both within the tunnel and surrounding areas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to note:**

- (i) Highways England continued commitment to ensuring operational improvements are made at the tunnel through maintenance and renewal schemes.
- (ii) Highways England and its Service Provider, Kier, have robust measures in place to manage planned bore closures and full closures of the tunnel.
- (iii) Highways England will continue to work with its stakeholders to ensure they have correct and up to date information relating to Hindhead Tunnel.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Highways England wants to continue to provide stakeholders and members of the public the reassurance that we are committed to managing the Hindhead Tunnel to ensure it remains operational.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

All items below are for information.

- 1.1 The A3 Hindhead Tunnel (HHT) was opened in 2011; its purpose was to improve journey times and improve safety. Along with bringing these benefits HHT is subjected to technology issues which when occur can mean that a closure of the tunnel is required to resolve them. Highways England is fully aware of the disruption such closures can cause and is proactively looking at ways to minimise these closure whilst also introducing improvements to the tunnel to improve its operational performance.

## ITEM 9

- 1.2 Since the opening of the HHT, it has and will continue to be subjected to 6 weekly night time maintenance works which are implemented via the use of contraflow traffic management. This work enables Highways England Service Provider, Kier, to carry out maintenance work for all assets within the tunnel. These works are known as planned works and as agreed in the Tunnel Forum meeting held in February 2018, these cause little or no disruption to the local stakeholders and are managed well by both Highways England and Kier.
- 1.3 Highways England has continued to invest in various tunnel assets. Such improvements are in the final design stages. It is our intention that they will be delivered by the end of the current financial year.

### **2. ANALYSIS:**

- 2.1 Since December 2017, there has been the need to carry out full closures of the HHT, to resolve technology issues. Where possible, these closures are managed to align with the planned 6 weekly planned works. These closures have been supported by Traffic Officers, who are positioned at the Thursley junction to manage the traffic and ensure compliance with the tactical diversion route.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

- 3.1 Highways England has confirmed funding for 7 capital improvement schemes. The current programme indicates that these schemes will be delivered by the end of the financial year.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

- 4.1 Highways England has met with both Surrey and Hampshire County Council to discuss the diversion route used when a closure is required of either bore or the whole tunnel. One topic that is being discussed is the low bridge at Wrecclesham.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 5.1 The costs for the improvements for assets associated to HHT will be funded as Capital Expenditure projects from the allocation given to the Area 3 each financial year.
- 5.2 The general maintenance of the HHT is part of the contractual lump sum duties that Kier carry out as the Service Provider for the area.

### **6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

- 6.1 N/A

### **7. LOCALISM:**

- 7.1 HHT affects Highways England stakeholders both nationally and locally. As well as members of the public, Highways England is committed to work together with all parties and is open to discussion on any matters relating to the Hindhead Tunnel.

<b>8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:</b>
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- 8.1 Crime and Disorder implications  
N/A
- 8.2 Sustainability implications  
N/A
- 8.3 Corporate Parenting/Looked after Children implications  
N/A
- 8.4 Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications  
N/A
- 8.5 Public Health implications  
N/A

<b>9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
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- 9.1 Highways England is continuing to provide resource and investment for Hindhead tunnel to bring about sustained operational improvement.
- 9.2 Highways England will continue to work with its stakeholders to ensure that any disruption caused by the HHT is minimised as much as possible.

<b>10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:</b>
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- 10.1 The stakeholders will be kept up to date by regular communications from both Highways England and Kier about planned works at the tunnel.
- 10.2 Highways England will continue to attend meetings such as these to provide members with an overview of the work and improvements that is and shall be carried out at Hindhead Tunnel.

**Contact Officer:**

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**Consulted:** N/A

**Annexes:** Annex 1 - HHT Briefing Note September 2018 - August 2019

**Sources/background papers:** N/A

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