

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL AND  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 11 DECEMBER 2019

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

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE ON SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL-LED LEP-FUNDED  
SCHEMES

**AREA(S) AFFECTED:** ALL DIVISIONS IN GUILDFORD

**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.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Guildford Joint Committee is asked to:**

- (i) Note the updates on ongoing capital works that are planned and in delivery as part of the Guildford Town Centre Transport Package and other Local Enterprise Partnership funded projects led by Surrey County Council in Guildford.
- (ii) Authorise advertisement of all necessary statutory notices to implement the new A3100 London Road pedestrian and cycle route with any representations reviewed by the Area Highway Manager and Transport Strategy Project Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member(s) (paragraph 2.15 refers).
- (iii) Authorise advertisement of all necessary statutory notices to implement the new Guildford College Link+ cycle route with any representations reviewed by the Area Highway Manager and Transport Strategy Project Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member(s) (paragraph 2.22 refers). (Subject to engagement with local bus operators and a satisfactory outcome being agreed with Guildford Borough Council Parking Services).

**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 a package of infrastructure schemes, in delivery 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 (SCC) Local Transport Plan.
- 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 a successful business case for funding was submitted to the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in 2016.
- 1.3 Following the funding award SCC and Guildford Borough Council (GBC) have been undertaking the phased delivery of the schemes within the TCTP.
- 1.4 Works substantially completed to date on the Guildford TCTP includes:
  - **A25 Cycle Corridor (Midleton Road):** installation of shared use pedestrian and cycle facility along A25 Midleton 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 along A25 Parkway.
  - **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.
  - **A25 Cycle Corridor (Woodbridge Road):** installation of shared use pedestrian and cycle facility along A25 Woodbridge Road.
- 1.5 In addition to the TCTP, there are two other major LEP funded transport projects currently in delivery in the borough, for which SCC is the lead authority. Both projects were awarded funding as part of the successful business case Unlocking Guildford package to the LEP in early 2018.
  - **Guildford Quality Bus Corridors (QBC):** a set of measures designed to improve journey time reliability, passenger waiting facilities and on-board experience to encourage growth in patronage along key bus routes into and around Guildford
  - **A31 Resilience:** a programme of work to resolve or attenuate surface water flooding at designated wet spots on the Hogs Back, Alton Road and Shepherd & Flock roundabout as well as carriageway resurfacing along the Hogs Back and Alton Road.

## 2. ANALYSIS:

### **Guildford Town Centre Transport Package**

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

- 2.1 Further to the last Committee update, a land agreement has now been finalised with GBC for the construction of a vehicle turning area to enable the experimental one-way closure on Walnut Tree Close.
- 2.2 Coordination discussions were held with SCC's Street Works department, the GBC project team for the replacement of Walnut Bridge and the developers of Guildford rail station (Solum) to develop a suitable implementation programme for the one-way scheme.
- 2.3 Through these discussions it was determined that the construction and implementation of the one-way scheme is not anticipated to conflict with the rail station construction works and associated site traffic.
- 2.4 GBC currently propose to undertake main construction works for the replacement of Walnut Bridge from March to July 2020. It has been established that the bridge replacement works will necessitate a temporary point closure on Walnut Tree Close for a period of 3-4 weeks at the start of the programme. It is not possible for the road to be closed at Walnut Bridge whilst the one-way trial is operational.
- 2.5 It has therefore been agreed that construction of the turning area for the one-way scheme will begin in January 2020 and complete in advance of the bridge works. The one-way trial is then anticipated to be made operational from July 2020 after construction of the new bridge structure is complete.
- 2.6 Ongoing liaison with nearby development sites will continue during the upcoming periods. SCC's Works Communication Team will be undertaking a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan during the weeks building up to the one-way trial becoming operational to make road users aware of the scheme and plan ahead accordingly.

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

- 2.7 A new high friction carriageway surface was laid at the end of September under night time road closures to complete the final element of work on the new off-road cycle facility along A25 Woodbridge Road.
- 2.8 The new facility completes a continuous 2.5km off-road cycle facility along the south side of the A25 cycle corridor between Denis and Boxgrove roundabouts.



*A25/A320 Stoke Crossroads*

- 2.9 Following the completion of Highways England works on the A3 off-slip the permanent traffic signals of the junction was commissioned.
- 2.10 During the subsequent weeks a period of traffic delays were encountered at the junction due to issues relating to equipment failures and traffic violations as the signals attempted to gather data on traffic movements.
- 2.11 Officers in the Traffic Signals team have worked to remedy the issues and the junction is now understood to be operating more efficiently. Maximum optimisation is expected to take time and as such it is still work in progress.

*A3100 London Road*

- 2.12 Outline design work has now been completed on the A3100 London Road and a final route alignment has been agreed. Diagrammatic plans and indicative concept drawings of A3100 London Road are shown in Annexes A and B respectively.
- 2.13 The route will provide a new high quality shared use pedestrian and cycle facility on the north side of the road between the junction with York Road and Boxgrove Roundabout.
- 2.14 The scheme is also expected to include the installation of a new signalised 'toucan crossing' facility between Cross Lanes and Stoke Park and the existing

pelican crossing on the railway overbridge near London Road rail station will also be upgraded to a toucan.

- 2.15 It is recommended that members authorise the advertisement of all necessary statutory notices to implement the new A3100 London Road pedestrian and cycle route with any representations reviewed by the Area Highway Manager and Transport Strategy Project Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member(s).
- 2.16 Discussions have taken place with SCC's Street Works team and it has been agreed to plan for construction to start during summer 2020, rather than during the spring, to coincide with the school holiday period and avoid conflict with the Surrey County Show at Stoke Park during May.
- 2.17 Targeted engagement is planned to take place with local stakeholders and members over the next quarter to provide further information during the run up to works commencing as the finer details are agreed during detailed design.

#### *Guildford College Link+*

- 2.18 SCC officers have now determined a preferred location for a critical signalised crossing over A322 Woodbridge Road that will make up part of the Guildford College Link+ route connecting cyclists from the new Walnut Bridge to Guildford College.
- 2.19 It has been identified that the preferred location of the signalised crossing will necessitate modifications to the existing north and southbound bus stops and small number of parking bays.
- 2.20 During the upcoming period, engagement is expected to take place with bus operators regarding any proposed changes to the abovementioned bus stops.
- 2.21 Parking surveys have also been commissioned to take place on the abovementioned parking bays following which consultation will be undertaken with officers from GBC's Parking Services to seek a design solution that is agreeable to both parties.
- 2.22 Subject to successful completion of activities described in Para 2.20 and 2.21 it is recommended that members authorise the advertisement of all necessary statutory notices to implement the new Guildford College Link+ cycle route with any representations reviewed by the Area Highway Manager and Transport Strategy Project Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and relevant Divisional Member(s).
- 2.23 Diagrammatic plans and indicative concept drawings of Guildford College Link+ are shown in Annexes C and D respectively.

#### **Guildford Quality Bus Corridors**

- 2.24 Bus stops along the main corridors into Guildford have been reviewed and prioritised with three tranches of bus stop improvements around Epsom Road, Woking Road and Guildford Town Centre at detailed design stage. These are being programmed in for delivery in 2020/2021.

- 2.25 Intelligent bus priority signal software is being installed at most traffic signal junctions within Guildford and will allow priority for late running buses. This will be completed in line with the Guildford signal junction refurbishment programme before March 2021. The system set up for the intelligent bus priority is currently being agreed between SCC, Trapeze and Siemens; this will then be extended county-wide as part of other Quality Bus Corridor schemes.
- 2.26 Since September 2019 the detailed designs have been completed and road safety audits carried out and the relevant statutory consultations are about to commence. These are programmed for construction during Summer 2020.
- 2.27 Detailed feasibility work is being undertaken to investigate the potential for a bus lane along Epsom Road between Merrow Park and Ride and the improvements at the Bushy Hill Drive junction. A future report will be brought to Committee, if required, to approve any necessary statutory consultations.

### **A31 Resilience**

- 2.28 The first two phases of the project were completed by September 2019. The first phase was to reconstruct the carriageway across all lanes of the A31, followed by a significant length of carriageway resurfacing to both westbound lanes of the Hogs Back west of the Puttenham junction. The value of work at these two locations was in the order of £1.4m.
- 2.29 The carriageway work has also provided improved drainage resilience along these lengths by exposing gulleys and carriers that were previously unserviceable, and redefining and re-profiling grips and filter drains.
- 2.30 Two specific highway flooding locations within the borough on the westbound carriageway of the Hogs Back and on the east bound carriageway near the Puttenham junction are due to be actioned later in 2019.
- 2.31 Further drainage investigation and repair will continue through 2019/20 before major construction recommences in 2020/21. This will primarily be programmed to take place in Alton Road to the west of Coxbridge Roundabout.
- 2.32 Flooding at the Shepherd & Flock roundabout has also recently been investigated, with a view to providing upgraded infrastructure as part of the project.

<b>3. <u>OPTIONS:</u></b>
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- 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.

<b>4. <u>CONSULTATIONS:</u></b>
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- 4.1 A full six-week public consultation was carried out on the seven schemes within the Guildford TCTP during autumn 2015.

- 4.2 Public engagement was also carried out on the Guildford QBC project as part of a public consultation on the wider Unlocking Guildford package of schemes during spring 2018.
- 4.3 Engagement on the implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders have and will continue to take place as per SCC'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 SCC 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 Local Transport Plan (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. SCC'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 transport improvements within the Guildford TCTP, QBC and A31 Resilience projects.
- 7.2 A recommendation is made to facilitate the necessary legal notices to undertake the improvements to pedestrian and cycle facilities as part of the A3100 London Road and Guildford College Link+ routes within the TCTP.

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

- 8.1 The TCTP project team will arrange for the necessary statutory notices to be advertised for the A3100 London Road scheme and make preparations for its construction and implementation.
- 8.2 The TCTP project team will engage local bus operators and the GBC Parking Services team to agree proposed designs prior to arranging for the necessary statutory notices to be advertised for the Guildford College Link+ scheme. Preparations will subsequently be made for the construction and implementation of the scheme.

### **Contact Officer:**

Cherrie Mendoza

Transport Strategy Project Manager, Transport Policy Team SCC

### **Consulted:**

SCC Area Highways

SCC Highways Design and Delivery

SCC Network Management

GBC Parking Services

### **Annexes:**

Annex A – A3100 diagrammatic plan

Annex B – A3100 concept drawing

Annex C – Guildford College Link+ diagrammatic plan

Annex D – Guildford College Link+ concept drawing

### **Background papers:**

- Guildford Town Centre Transport Package Feedback (8 December 2015, Report to Guildford Local Committee)
- Update on SCC-led LEP projects (18 September 2019, Report to Guildford Joint Committee)