

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE



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

DATE: **11 DECEMBER 2019**

**LEAD
OFFICER:** **FRANK APICELLA – AREA HIGHWAY MANAGER (SW),
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

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 2019/20.

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:-

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

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 26th February.

2.1.4 The Committee 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.

Revenue

2.1.6 As a result of there not being a revenue maintenance allocation for 2019/20, at the March Committee, all 10 divisional 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.

2.1.7 Annex 2 identifies all the currently identified and approved schemes for 2019/20.

2.1.8 The Cabinet Member has advised that any Highway fund allocation NOT assigned by the end of October will be lost.

2.1.9 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 nine months between January and September 2019 is 95,916, an average of 10,657 per month. This is a 19% decrease on the number received during the same period in 2018. This reflects the milder winter and the work that has taken place to improve the website and online reporting.
- 2.2.2 For Guildford specifically, 14,034 enquiries have been received since January of which 6,509 (46%) were directed to the local area office for action, of these 94% have been resolved. This response rate is slightly below the countywide average of 95%.
- 2.2.3 Since January 2019, Highways & Transport have received 102 Stage 1 complaints. Fifty were escalated to Stage 2, of which the Service has been found to be partially or fully at fault in 18 cases. In addition three have been escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman, none of which have been upheld.

2.3 Street Lighting

- 2.3.1 Work has continued on the programme to roll out LED lighting for existing street lights across the county.
- 2.3.2 The legal agreement between SCC and the Service Provider has taken longer than expected but is nearing conclusion. It is now expected that the programme to install the LED lighting will commence early in the new year.
- 2.3.3 Once the programme is complete it is expected that the Council will save 60% of its current energy costs for street lighting.
- 2.3.4 Prior to rolling out the programme a successful pilot site has been running in Kingfisher Drive, Guildford since late 2018. This was expanded in the summer to test the robustness of the Communication Management System (CMS); that comes with this upgrade; which has also been successful.

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.

www.surreycc.gov.uk/Guildford

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 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 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 6 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.

Dates	Times	Comments
16/11/19 – 20/12/19	21:00 - 05:00	Traffic signals for single lane working during night time only.
25/12/19 – 30/12/19	24 hour closure	Full vehicular road closure with pedestrian access maintained until 5am on 30 th December.

- 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:
- NR will provide bus shuttle service for train passengers.
 - GBC Farnham Road Carpark will remain fully open during the Christmas shopping period.
- 2.7.9 For any questions or concerns, please visit the Network Rail website or telephone their 24-hour helpline on 03457 11 41 41, quoting "information request - Farnham Road overbridge"
- 2.7.10 SCC have a page for these works which will be updated as necessary - <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks/farnham-road-guildford-rail-bridge-strengthening-work>

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 164,421 Gullies and Catchpits and 8,173 soakaways across the County.
- 2.9.2 20,995 gullies/catchpits, and 91 soakaways are 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.
- 2.9.3 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.

- 2.9.4 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.
- 2.9.5 For 2019/20, 9,517 gullies/catchpits have been cleaned, of the 15,668 due to be cleaned, whilst 13 of the 55 soakaways have been cleaned.
- 2.9.6 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) September 2019 Highways Update.

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