

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**JOINT COMMITTEE (SPELTHORNE)**



**DATE: DATE OF MEETING**

**LEAD: MATT FURNISS, CABINET MEMBER - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

**SUBJECT: CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS UPDATE TO COUNCIL**

**DIVISION: ALL SURREY**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

SCC Cabinet Members provide a briefing on their portfolios to council meetings. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport briefings will be provided for the local and joint committees for consideration and comment. As this is the first report, the last three briefings have been attached as Annex A.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Joint Committee (Spelthorne) is asked to note the briefing.**

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

To provide the committee with the opportunity to consider and comment on the Cabinet Member updates.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 SCC Cabinet Members provide a briefing on their portfolios to full council meetings. The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport briefings will be provided for the local and joint committees for consideration and comment. As this is the first report, the last three briefings have been attached as Annex A.

**2. ANALYSIS:**

Not applicable – provided for information only.

**3. OPTIONS:**

Not applicable – provided for information only.

**4. CONSULTATIONS:**

Not applicable – provided for information only

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

Not applicable – provided for information only

**6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable – provided for information only

**7. LOCALISM:**

Not applicable – provided for information only

**8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
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

**9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Not applicable – provided for information only

**10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

Not applicable – provided for information only

**Contact Officer:**

Carys Walker, Partnership Committee Officer

**Consulted:**

N/A

**Annexes:**

Annex A - Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport briefings

### **Update on the progress of the increased investment in roads this year**

- We are in the second year of the Severe Weather Recovery Programme, having last year completed approximately 300 schemes comprising surfacing, large/small scale patching and surface dressing.
- So far this year we have completed 23 surfacing and patching schemes, and 50 surface dressing schemes under this programme.
- There are a further 33 surfacing and patching schemes programmed for the rest of the year.
- There are a number of reserve schemes also on the programme, and we will be monitoring any further deterioration across the network over the autumn and winter period, prioritising these with the remaining funding.

### **Town centre agreements report going to Cabinet**

- A report is going to Cabinet in July that will build on our solid partnership working with the District & Borough Councils.
- This will enable important highway maintenance works to be undertaken by those best placed to do so.
- There is potential that through closer working there can be an improved level of maintenance, management and investment to our important and high profile town centre locations.

### **Surrey Infrastructure Academy launch**

- The launch event for the Surrey Infrastructure Academy took place on Wednesday 26 June 2019.
- This is a collaborative project between Surrey County Council, the four major FE colleges in Surrey and the Infrastructure Industry.
- The project has been led by Kier and developed as part of the Surrey Highways contract to help reverse the ticking time bomb in skills within the Highways, Utilities, Civil Engineering and Energy industries.
- The doors are open for students to start in September 2019 with a range of new and existing courses, packaged as a tangible institution, supported by employers, appealing to students, parents and schools giving a viable entry to a career in the Infrastructure Sector.

### **Update on LED rollout**

- Officers continue to finalise the negotiation of the PFI contract change which is progressing well with conversion expected to commence in the autumn as planned.
- In December 2018, a small number of street lights near to the Highways Depot in Merrow were converted to LED and are working well.
- In the spring, a traffic camera and radar counter was installed along with a temperature sensor and an air quality monitoring sensor to test their functionality and initial reports are being reviewed by officers to understand what the data shows.
- The trial was extended to a number of roads in Merrow in late May with around 100 lights converted to LED which allowed Skanska to test and improve on the conversion process ahead of the work starting which will see up to 3000 lights converted per month.
- The Deed of Variation to the contract is expected to be executed in the coming weeks and once completed, further information on the work including the programme and dates for each area will be shared with Members and the public.

### **CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL - OCTOBER 2019**

**NAME:** Matt Furniss **PORTFOLIO:** Highways & Transport

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### **Customer reporting changes**

Following on from the successful changes introduced earlier this year to pothole reporting, a similar approach is being introduced for other popular highway assets. At the end of September 2019 our website went live with an improved way to report pavement defects, trees, weeds and grass. Pictures on our website show residents the type of defect; making it easier for them to explain their concern and better understand the priority we will give it. Issues can also be marked on a map, and customers can upload a photo. Feedback so far is positive, with users particularly liking the photo examples.

### **Highway maintenance programme update**

We are now six months into the 2019/20 Highway Maintenance programme of works, Horizon 2, and construction schemes are progressing well. So far we have completed over 85 miles of treatments on roads and over 10 miles of treatments on pavements as well as a number of schemes on structures, drainage, traffic signals and safety barriers. We still have around another 10 miles of road schemes to deliver before the end of March 2020 and around 12 miles of work on pavements as well as a number of schemes on the other highway assets.

We have also completed 39 schemes under the Severe Weather Recovery programme and have protected the investments made from last year's Severe Weather Recovery Programme through surface dressing 50 of last year's schemes. As part of our "capital safety defect" programme, we have repaired or prevented nearly 17,000 potholes and we have also continued working on LEP funded "resilience" schemes which have included reconstructing significant areas of the A23 and extensive drainage works and carriageway reconstruction on the A31. The website is currently being updated to show progress on the individual schemes within the Horizon 2 and Severe Weather programmes.

### **Materials innovation trials update**

A number of trials of innovative materials have taken place recently. At the end of August we trialled a process called "Reclamite" which involves applying an emulsion to the road surface which penetrates into the material and can extend the road life for 5-7 years by replacing some the elements lost over time. The emulsion takes around three months to fully penetrate into the asphalt, therefore we should have some meaningful test data by the end of the year. We also carried out a trial using "hydroblasting" which uses high pressure water to remove excess bitumen from the road surface restoring the skid resistance of the road. We tested the site for skid resistance before and after treatment and are awaiting the results.

Later this month we will be trialling a "warm mix asphalt", as opposed to hot mix asphalt which is usually used. Instead this material is mixed at a reduced temperature, which not only provides environmental advantages but also means the bitumen within the asphalt should oxidise less during the mixing process at the plant, meaning we should get a greater life out of the material.

During September 2017 we carried out a trial using an "asphalt preservation system". This process seals the road surface and helps slow down the rate of oxidisation of the bitumen which in turn should increase the road's life.

We already have 12 months of data for this trial and are just about to conduct the 24 month testing. So far the results for this trial look promising, compared to the control sections the treated sections are oxidising at a slower rate. Finally, a trial was

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undertaken with in conjunction with a utility company using plastics to replace part of the bitumen content of the asphalt. Phase 1 of the trial involved two footway reinstatements and we are currently looking at dates for the next phase of the trial which will be on a road reinstatement.

#### **Verge maintenance and weed control**

Since the July 2019 Council motion for management of highway verges, the highways team has been working to imbed the changes into future maintenance works. We work in partnership with the district and boroughs for verge maintenance, with nine areas being managed by the local district / borough. Discussions have been held with relevant Officers and they are aware of the Council's desire to improve wildlife habitats, where appropriate.

The current contract for maintaining grass verges and weed control is due for renewal in April 2020. As part of the new contract specification, clear reference has been made for the use of innovative solutions for both verge maintenance and weed spraying. This will include leaving areas uncut for pollination and alternatives to glyphosate. Discussions have been held with specialist suppliers and a trial is being arranged to use "sprayed hot water" as a weed treatment process. The results of this, and other planned trials will help shape how the County Council manages highway weeds in the future.

**CABINET MEMBER UPDATE TO FULL COUNCIL - DECEMBER 2019**

**NAME:** Matt Furniss **PORTFOLIO:** Highways & Transport

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### **Winter Service**

The Cold Weather Plan has been updated and is now available on the website. We have over 12,000 tonnes of salt in stock and all of our 1,800 grit bins were inspected in the summer. Deliveries of salt have been made to Districts and Boroughs so they can keep their priority pavements clear, and arrangements are being made to provide salt to the farmers who help us during snow events. There has been a review of Priority 2 salting routes following engagement with Local Committees and their feedback has been incorporated into the revised Priority 2 routes. These are available to view on the online map. Priority 1 routes were reviewed and updated following Local Committee engagement in 2018 and there have been no significant changes to the Priority 1 routes since then. 8 gritting runs were completed in November and gritting runs are continuing during December.

During the 2019/20 winter season Surrey and Kier will be working with Meteogroup to trial the “Route Based” method of forecasting. Route Based Forecasting provides more accurate localised forecast modelling, allowing for more precise decision making. Providing the trial is successful, this will improve the accuracy of decision making and provide a reduction in the number of full gritting actions required over the winter season. Anticipated benefits are both environmental and financial, including a reduction in CO2 emissions, driver call out costs, and salt usage.

### **Epsom Marketplace Improvement Project**

Following the successful pedestrian and vehicle improvements delivered by the County Council in Epsom Town Centre last year, in January works started on the next phase, the Marketplace. This is a £1.8m scheme to significantly enhance the pedestrian heart of the town, encompassing quality paving materials and street furniture, mature trees, public art and maximising use of the available space. Epsom & Ewell BC committed in excess of £1m towards the scheme, which has been designed by the County Council in close cooperation with the Borough. This is a very busy area with many shops and a thriving market. A real challenge has been to “keep the town open” and everybody informed while works progress. The County’s contractor, Kier, have done an excellent job in managing the site and it is being delivered to programme with completion due in spring 2020. So far, there has been nothing but positive feedback. The completion of this scheme won’t be the end of highway improvements to Epsom Town Centre, in 2020 we move on to improving the northern footway. Again, this will be designed and delivered by the County Council in partnership with Epsom & Ewell, who are providing the funds.

### **Improvement to Scheme Information provision**

Currently information about our planned maintenance “Horizon” programmes for roads, pavements, bridges and structures, traffic signals, safety barriers and drainage are shared on the SCC website in a series of documents separated out for each District/ Borough. Our Highway Asset GIS team have been working to provide this data on a GIS based map and plan to make the map live for publication of the 2020/21 programmes at the end of January 2020.

The map will be updated regularly so the public and members will be able to see any updates or changes to the proposed schemes. This work follows on from previous improvements to map based data provision which includes map based winter gritting routes and map based parking restrictions. Other improvements are being looked at and will be reported on in due course.

**Electric Bus Scheme**

At the UK Bus Awards in November, our electric bus scheme operating on Guildford Park and Ride was awarded the 'silver' runners-up award in the Environment Category. The nine fully electric Park and Ride buses came into service in February. They are the first ultra-low emissions buses in the county, with others planned. These electric buses were introduced in partnership with Stagecoach and a supporting Department for Transport grant. Stagecoach operates the Guildford Park and Ride services commercially, carrying 900,000 passengers each year and taking hundreds of car journeys out of the town every day to help relieve congestion and tackle air quality.

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