

**GUILDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL &  
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**



**GUILDFORD  
BOROUGH**

**GUILDFORD JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 18 MARCH 2020**

**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. In addition it details the committee devolved allocation for 2020/21 and how it is proposed to be allocated.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Guildford Joint Committee is asked:**

- (i) To note the committee approved allocations and works progressed during 2019/20.
- (ii) To agree the recommendations made in this report for utilising the available highways budget for 2020/21. (Paragraph 2.1.7 - 2.1.14 refers.)
- (iii) To agree the reduction of the current national speed limit in The Avenue, Compton to a 30mph speed limit. (Paragraph 2.1.16 – 2.1.18 refers.)
- (iv) To delegate to the Area Highway Manager, in consultation with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Divisional Member, the ability to resolve any problems encountered, to facilitate scheme delivery throughout the year.

**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**

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

- 2.1.1 In summary the Committee budget for 2019/20 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 Annex 2 identifies the programme of capital & revenue works approved for implementation during 2019/20.

#### ***2020/21 Highway Budget***

- 2.1.3 The devolved Committee budgets for 2020/21 were confirmed earlier in the year and resolved that **an additional £1m of capital**, over last year's £2m, be allocated to the 11 joint and local Committees.
- 2.1.4 It has been approved that each of the 11 joint and local Committees will receive a share of a **£3m Capital Maintenance allocation**, comprising of a base allocation of £100,000 and that the remaining £1,900,000, be split by the number of County Committee members.
- 2.1.5 County Councillors will continue to be allocated a Revenue Highway Fund allocation, and this will remain at £7,500 per member, as in 2019/20.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Total Capital</b>
Elmbridge	9	£311,104
Epsom & Ewell	5	£217,280
<b>Guildford</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>£334,456</b>
Mole Valley	6	£240,736
Reigate & Banstead	10	£334,456
Runnymede	6	£240,736
Spelthorne	7	£264,192
Surrey Heath	6	£240,736
Tandridge	6	£240,736
Waverley	9	£311,104
Woking	7	£264,192
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>£3,000,000</b>

2.1.6 The Guildford Joint Committee devolved budget for 2020/21 is as follows:-

Committee Budget 2020/21	Amount
Capital maintenance & ITS	£100,000
Capital maintenance (10 x £23.456k)	£234,456
Revenue Highway Fund (10 x £7.5k)	£ 75,000
	<b>£409,456</b>

### ***Programme of Works 2020/21***

#### ***Capital***

- 2.1.7 At the meeting of the 'Infrastructure Delivery and Transport Working Group' held on the 13th February, a programme of works was recommended for approval by the Joint Committee.
- 2.1.8 It is proposed to again allocate £10,000 of the Capital fund for the provision of new signs and lines throughout the year, to be administered by the Local Team.
- 2.1.9 The Joint Committee prioritised list of Local Transport Plan (ITS) schemes is attached at Annex 1.
- 2.1.10 It was recommended that the £100,000 capital budget be expended as in previous years, on the highest prioritised ITS list of projects:
- £10,000 Signs and lines
  - £90,000 Progression of the highest prioritised schemes identified at Annex 1 to this value.
  - £234,456 The Area Highway Manager will be arranging 121 meeting with the 10 County Councillors to allocate the £23,456 per member plus balance of the highway fund.
- 2.1.11 ITS Capital Carry forward from 2019/20 - 2020/21
- £10k Lower Eashing. (Additional s106 contribution of £18K Waverley)
  - £35k Bus Lane Enforcement Cameras
- 2.1.12 Following the changes by Cabinet in February 2020 to the Bus Lane Policy, there no longer remains a need to allocate Joint Committee funding to the enforcement camera element.
- 2.1.13 This effectively means that utilising this carry forward, it will be possible to construct the top 10 schemes from the ITS list, rather than merely the top 8.
- 2.1.14 The ITS prioritised list identifies the total cost of the scheme to the Joint Committee, which effectively is the scheme cost minus any externally provided funding such as developer contribution, or any other external funding from other bodies.

#### ***Revenue***

- 2.1.12 Last year, as a result of there not being a revenue maintenance allocation, at the March 2019 Committee, all 10 divisional members agreed to allocate £5k

from their £7.5k Highway fund. This enabled at least some local revenue maintenance works to be carried out and administered by the Local Team.

2.1.13 It is hence further recommended that the Committee resolve to approve the following:

- Allocate £50,000 from the £75,000 Highway fund (£5000 per member) to be used to buy in a Community Gang, as in 17/18, 18/19, & 19/20 to enable these eminently worthwhile maintenance issues to be carried out. County Members would have direct control in the input of works list to the Maintenance Engineer.

2.1.14 Members have been receiving updates directly from their LHOs to what works are being carried out in their divisions utilising their Highway fund, and this will continue.

2.1.15 The Cabinet Member has advised that any Highway fund allocation **NOT** assigned by the end of October 2020 will be lost.

*The Avenue, Compton - Proposed speed limit change*

2.1.16 The Avenue, Compton is approximately 700m long, which joins New Pond Road to Binscombe. Approximately 60m of The Avenue falls within the Waverley area. The speed limits both in New Pond Road and Binscombe are 30mph and if the speed limit in The Avenue is lowered to 30mph, it would be consistent from Compton to Binscombe.

2.1.17 Speed surveys have been carried out and the results support that the current speed limit should be lowered to a 30mph limit. The County Councillors for Godalming North and Shalford support the reduction in the speed limit.

2.1.18 Consultation has been carried out with the Police and they support the proposal

2.1.19 This project is being funded by Councillor Furniss, from the balance of his Highway Fund for 20/21.

**Other highway related matters**

**2.2 Customer services**

2.2.1 The total number of enquiries received in the calendar year 2019 is 126,399 an average of 10,533 per month, this represents a decrease of approximately 14% from the total received in 2018. This reflects the milder winter and the work that has taken place to improve the website and online reporting.

2.2.2 The decrease in defect reports is reflected in the balance of enquiries between SCC and Kier. All reports are categorised at the point of logging, either automatically through the website or by officers. Safety defects are directed to Kier with the remainder passed to the SCC local office for further investigation. During 2018 the average split was 47% SCC and 53% Kier, in 2019, because of the reduction in reports this has increased the proportion sent to SCC to 51%.

2.2.3 For Guildford specifically, 18,564 enquiries were received between January and December of which 8,549 were directed to the local area office for action, of these 95% have been resolved. This is in slightly below the countywide average of 96%, however along with Waverley, Guildford receive the highest

number of enquiries of all the other areas, receiving 14%, and 15% of the total respectively.

- 2.2.4 Since January 2019, Highways & Transport have received 150 Stage 1 complaints. Sixty one were escalated to Stage 2, of which the Service has been found to be partially or fully at fault in 18 cases. In addition ten have been escalated to the Local Government Ombudsman, the Service was found to be partially at fault in one case.

### **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 Once the programme is complete it is expected that the Council will save 60% of its current energy costs for street lighting.
- 2.3.3 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 2020-21 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.

## **2.7 Passenger Transport**

- 2.7.1 There was no update at the time of writing this report

## **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 157,454 Gullies and Catchpits and 7,060 soakaways across the County.
- 2.9.2 19,622 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, 9,765 gullies/catchpits have been cleaned, of the 14,247 due to be cleaned. Of the 17 Priority 1 (P1) soakaways, 3 have been inspected and 2 cleaned, whilst all 7 P2 soakaways have been inspected and 2 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:**

<b>Area assessed:</b>	<b>Direct Implications:</b>
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 Joint 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 the 2020/21 approved programme of works.

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**Consulted:**

As detailed within the report.

**Annexes:**

Annex 1 – Joint Committee running list of Local Transport Plan schemes–  
highlighting ITS projects to be progressed from Capital 2020/21

Annex 2 – Progress of Joint Committee capital and revenue schemes  
2019/20

**Background papers:**

Guildford Joint Committee (December 2019) - Highways Update