



CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Matt Furniss, Cabinet Member for Transport

Purpose of report:

To share details of the Cabinet Member's priority areas of work including strategy and policy developments and provide an overview of the budget position and performance of services within his/her portfolio.

Highways and Operational Delivery

1. Accessibility of information on the Council's website is improving, including an enhanced GIS map showing works that are planned for the current year and those being considered for the future. The Cabinet Member for Transport has led a presentation to members demonstrating the benefits of the new map. New best practice guidelines for highway verges were published in April 2020 to provide guidelines which allow grass cutting to be undertaken with an approach that encourages wildflowers and wildlife whilst keeping roads safe.
2. Cabinet approval on Highways Procurement will be sought in September 2020, with the initial shortlisting process due to take place in late November/early December 2020 and second shortlisting in late January/early February 2021.

Highways Innovation

3. A number of trials of materials and ways of working have been undertaken in recent months including a trial using plastic pellets in asphalt to increase longevity of utility repairs, trials of new thermal patching materials and trials of equipment such as variable message signs that use solar power. We will also be starting a trial in October using alternative road marking materials which could result in a reduction of micro plastics and increased longevity of road markings. Other technical innovations we are trialling include using image recognition and artificial intelligence to streamline the identification of potholes; strategically located sensors to target road drain (gully) cleansing more effectively; and using road temperature data to drive efficiencies in winter gritting to target areas that need gritting whilst reducing cost and environmental impact.

Streetworks

4. The Lane Rental consultation is currently underway, with several positive responses so far. Our proposal will go to the Department for Transport in October, and the Surrey MPs have been informed and engaged in the process.

Road Safety

5. Working with Surrey police, the Council are undertaking a media and publicity campaign to remind drivers of the speed limit and the fact that enforcement is continuing. An evaluation of the introduction of average speed cameras has shown increased compliance with the speed limit. There are plans to introduce average speed cameras on the A320 St Peter's Way, Chertsey and A31 Hogs Back (eastbound).

Active Travel

6. The Council are waiting to hear back from the government's Emergency Active Travel Tranche 2 bid. We expect to hear back in September 2020. We have incorporated the feedback from our less successful tranche 1 bid and hope to be more successful this time around, having been ambitious with our bid.

Electric Vehicles

7. We have submitted two bids to Government for ultra-low emission buses. The first is for an all-electric bus town focusing on Farnham, with a total value of £11 million. It will be supported by measures to make buses run to time along with real time passenger information. The second bid is to the Rural Mobility Fund, for new Demand Responsive Transport services in the rural areas of Mole Valley. This aims to help support residents living in rural areas to access key services. The scheme will utilise the latest technology that allows more immediacy and more flexibility with DRT services. We are still awaiting the final decisions from Government on this.

Streetlighting

8. Our streetlighting PFI renegotiation will be going to Cabinet in October.

Recommendations:

1. The Committee reviews the information contained in this update and offers feedback to the Cabinet Member.
2. The Select Committee considers where it may add value to the Cabinet Member's work through scrutiny and scopes topics as required.

Next steps:

The Cabinet Member to return with a further update at the next formal meeting of the Committee.

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