

Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 4

DATE: 20 NOVEMBER 2020

DOC NO: 4D476001-SCC-PRG-PAP-000007

REPORT OF: MR TIM OLIVER – BOARD CHAIR

LEAD OFFICER: CHRIS TUNSTALL

SUBJECT: VISION STATEMENT CONSULTATION

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To note the outcome of the Vision Statement Consultation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The Board note the outcome of the Vision Statement Consultation.
2. The Project Team consider the feedback provided, and that the Vision Statement is taken forward as part of the Farnham Infrastructure Programme (FIP).
3. The Project Team works to ensure people from younger age groups participate in future consultations.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Vision Statement Consultation Report summarises the responses to the consultation, including any additional commentary or suggestions provided by consultees. The outcome of the consultation suggests broad agreement to the Vision Statement, the programme themes and project proposals. There was, however, a low response rate from younger age groups, which needs to be addressed for future engagement.

DETAILS:

Background

1. Previous studies in Farnham have been reviewed as part of the production of the Vision Statement. The document summarises the key issues Farnham faces and

provides a series of proposed projects on how the issues could be addressed. Whilst consultations have been conducted previously, it is crucial to confirm the current needs of Farnham's residents, and ensure that the FIP addresses the present issues of the town. The challenges brought by the current COVID-19 pandemic have also been considered as part of the project proposals.

Analysis

2. Full details of the consultation findings can be found in Annex A.
3. The proposed Vision Statement has received broad support from many, and several suggestions have been made on how the document's aims can be achieved. At this stage of consultation, the following conclusion have been made:
 - The majority of respondents 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that the vision statement is the right ambition for the programme, and most of the project themes are believed to be 'Essential' or 'High Priority'.
 - Rerouting heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) is believed to be 'Essential' by the overwhelming majority of consultees, but problems which may arise as a result of redirecting HGVs and other traffic away from the centre are of concern for many.
 - Reducing congestion and through traffic within the town centre, and resolving concerns relating to air and noise pollution within the centre and neighbouring residential areas were seen as 'Essential' by the majority of consultees.
 - Improving safety and other provisions for walking and cycling within Farnham Town Centre, along connecting routes from surrounding residential areas and around schools is a key priority. It is clear that the majority of consultees would like to see these changes included as part of the project outcomes of the FIP.
 - Addressing congestion and its causes at Hickley's Corner, particularly the effect of the level crossing, is a key priority.
 - The majority of consultees 'Somewhat' or 'Strongly Favour' the possibility of Wrecclesham Relief Road evolving to become a western bypass, although a number have stated its location and cost would influence their decision.
4. Demographic data collected as part of the consultation shows that the majority of respondents (57.2%) were aged 55 or older, and around a third of respondents identified their employment status as retired (36.7%). Despite low participation from younger age groups to the consultation, the responses showed that the views towards the Vision Statement, the programme themes and project proposals were broadly similar across all age groups.

CONSULTATION:

5. Consultation on the Vision Statement ran from the 1st October 2020 to 8th November 2020. The consultation has received a total of 885 responses, from members of the public, organisations, and businesses through the Surrey Says consultation platform, email and by post.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

6. The Board and Forum have no statutory powers and as such any decisions requiring approval by the responsible Authorities Constitution, in this case Surrey County Council, will have an individual risk assessment.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

7. The cost of the works will be identified within the Surrey County Council Report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

8. There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

9. Neither of the Boards nor the LLF have any Executive Powers. Any decisions made would require Surrey County Council to follow its own legal advice and its approval procedures.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

10. As part of Surrey County Council reporting requirements individual Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) will be undertaken.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

11. There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

12. The Vision Statement and the feedback provided as part of the consultation, summarised in the Vision Statement Consultation Report, will be taken forward and used to inform the Optimised Infrastructure Programme (OIP).

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Annexes:

Annex A – Vision Statement Consultation Report

Sources/background papers:

As detailed in Annex A

Annex A – Vision Statement Consultation Report