

## Farnham Infrastructure Programme

### Farnham Board Meeting

#### AGENDA ITEM 4

**DATE:** 11 JUNE 2021

**DOC NO:** 4D476001-SCC-PRG-PAP-000018

**REPORT OF:** TIM OLIVER – BOARD CHAIR

**LEAD OFFICER:** SIMON DUKE – PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** OPTIMISED INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN CONSULTATION RESULTS

#### SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To note the outcome of the draft Optimised Infrastructure Plan (OIP) consultation.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. the Board notes the outcome of the draft OIP consultation; and
2. the Project Team considers the feedback provided and considers this for the next version of the Optimised Infrastructure Plan.

#### REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The OIP 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 with the draft OIP.

#### DETAILS:

##### Background

1. The OIP is the latest stage of the Farnham Infrastructure Programme and identifies a Farnham-wide programme of solutions to the issues highlighted in the Vision. Options in the OIP have been based on how they could support: our objectives, value

for money, affordability, and deliverability. This will help to ensure that Farnham can become a better, more environmentally friendly place for those who live, work, study in, or visit the town.

## Analysis

2. Full details of the consultation findings can be found in Annex A.
3. The draft OIP has received broad support, and several suggestions have been made on how the document's aims can be achieved. Some key findings can be seen below.
  - There were 268 people who responded to at least one question in the wider context section, with the majority (56%) of respondents feeling positively towards the OIP objectives and short-listing priorities.
  - There were 218 responses to the Farnham-wide improvements proposals, with 55% feeling positive towards them and 23% negatively. Respondents were particularly keen on walking, cycling and electric vehicle improvements and ultra-low emission buses, although the high cost of using buses was highlighted.
  - The possible town centre interventions section had the most respondents with 406. Most people said they walk or drive into town, and the majority of respondents felt positively about the proposed changes (54%) but there were still a significant number of people who viewed them negatively (20%). There was particular support for a 20mph speed limit and HGV restrictions. Views around social distancing measures and pedestrianisation were polarising.
  - Questions about North Farnham improvements received 339 responses and while positive views (42%) continued to outweigh the negative views (33%) for these proposals this is by a lower percentage than for the town centre proposals. There were polarising views over a bypass.
  - The feelings of the 231 respondents towards the South Farnham intervention proposals were similar to the wider context and town centre plans, with 20% having negative views but the majority (53%) feeling positive towards them. Again, there were polarising responses to the question of a bypass, while there was support for looking into options around the level crossing.
  - For the possible A31 corridor interventions there were 251 respondents. More respondents continued to feel positive (52%) towards these proposals rather than negatively (25%).
  - In all areas, people said they would use greener travel options more often if the recommendations in the draft OIP were implemented.
4. Demographic data shows that respondents were more likely to be male, with 60% of respondents identifying as such compared to 38% female. The majority of respondents were 45 and older, with 46% being over 65. This is not reflective of overall Farnham demographics which is 22% are over 65. There is an underrepresentation of respondents aged under 35 with this category making up only 4% of respondents, compared to the overall Farnham demographics of around 38%.
5. To ensure views of younger people were captured, a series of polls was released via Instagram. These were pushed specifically at the 18-44 age range, primarily reaching

those in the 25-34 age range. This was the first time this has been done by Surrey County Council. More work is being done county-wide to improve engagement with younger people.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

6. Consultation on the OIP ran from 15 February to 14 March 2021. The consultation has received a total of 729 responses, through the Commonplace consultation platform and by post.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

7. The Board has no Statutory powers and as such any decisions requiring approval by the responsible Authorities, in this case Surrey County Council, will have individual risk assessments.

#### **FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY**

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

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER**

10. The Board has no Executive Powers. Any decisions made would require Surrey County Council to follow its own legal advice and its approval procedures.

#### **EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY**

11. As part of Surrey County Council reporting requirements, individual Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) will be undertaken as required.

#### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

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

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

13. The feedback provided as part of the consultation, summarised in the Vision Statement Consultation Report, will be taken forward and used to inform the final OIP.

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**Annexes:** Annex A – OIP Consultation Report

**Annex A – OIP Consultation Report**