

Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 04

DATE: 24 SEPTEMBER 2021

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REPORT OF: TIM OLIVER – BOARD CHAIR

LEAD OFFICER: SIMON DUKE – PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: OPTIMISED INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FINAL DRAFT

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To note the content of the revised Optimised Infrastructure Plan (OIP), amended following completion of the consultation process and review of comments received.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Notes the progress made in developing the final draft of the revised OIP. This has taken account of initial officer feedback, but the production of the final version of the OIP awaits formal feedback from Farnham Infrastructure Programme (FIP) partners.
2. Approves the publication of the final version of the OIP, subject to completion of any final amendments following feedback from the Board.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The OIP has been amended following completion of the consultation process and receipt of comments from the public, stakeholders, and partners.

The OIP Consultation Report previously summarised the responses to the consultation, including any additional commentary or suggestions provided by consultees. The consultation on the draft OIP suggested that there was broad agreement with many components of the draft OIP, but that further work would be needed to develop specific components of the Plan.

The team leading the development of the OIP has reviewed the consultation feedback and has undertaken further technical work to inform key components of the OIP. Engagement has taken place with FIP partners to inform development of the final draft version of the OIP.

The final draft will be circulated to Board members under separate cover. Formal feedback is still awaited from Waverley Borough Council and Farnham Town Council, and this will need to be addressed in the production of the final version.

DETAILS:

Background

1. The OIP is the latest stage of the FIP 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.

Overview

2. The draft OIP received broad support, as outlined by the consultation response.
3. The final draft of the revised OIP has incorporated comments from the following.
 - Partners: Surrey County Council (Councillors and Officers), Waverley Borough Council (Councillors and Officers), Farnham Town Council (Councillors and Officers)
 - Stakeholders, e.g. Farnham Biodiversity Partnership, Farnham Cycle Campaign, The Farnham Society, Friends of Farnham Park, Farnham Architects Forum
 - Resident groups: North Farnham Voice, South Farnham Residents Association
 - Individual residents and business owners
4. Due to time and space constraints in this briefing report, the full list of amendments is not supplied. Below is an overview of the types of changes made to the draft OIP when creating the final document.
 - Policy additions, e.g. policy adopted since the publication of the draft OIP
 - Removal of some potential schemes
 - Alteration of some potential schemes
 - Addition of some potential schemes
 - Text alterations – clarifications, supplementary text etc...
 - Mapping alterations reflecting revisions and corrections
 - Additional information on potential carbon impacts
5. It is important to note that some comments and requests have not been reflected in the amended OIP. In some instances, this is because the suggestions are not viable

or are not supported by UK legislation, regulations, or guidelines. In other instances, these suggestions and comments relate to specific projects within the Farnham Infrastructure Programme, e.g. the Farnham A31 Corridor, Town Centre, Short- and Medium-term interventions etc... Where this is the case, these comments have been relayed to those project teams for action at the project level.

6. The OIP is a strategic document that sets out the overall principles for improving the transport system in Farnham over the next decade. It is not intended to provide detail, which will instead be developed through the individual projects (Short- and Medium-Term Interventions, Town Centre and associated active travel programme, Farnham A31 Corridor, Wrecclesham Relief Road). Interventions shown in the OIP are indicative concepts and will be subject to further development through the individual projects.

CONSULTATION:

6. Consultation on the OIP ran from 15 February to 14 March 2021. The consultation 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, a programme-level Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken for the FIP, drawing on evidence from the Vision and the OIP. This has been approved by the Programme Team at the September Programme Board.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

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

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

13. The OIP has been amended to produce a final draft version, reflecting and incorporating feedback provided as part of the consultation. Following final feedback and approval from the Board, the final OIP will be published in the public domain.

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Annexes: None. Final Draft OIP to follow as a separate paper.