Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting

AGENDA ITEM 07

DATE: 17 DECEMBER

DOC NO: 4D476001-SCC-PRG-PAP-000025

REPORT OF: TIM OLIVER – BOARD CHAIRMAN

LEAD OFFICER: ELAINE MARTIN – PROGRAMME MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROGRESS UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This paper has been drafted to summarise the activity and progress achieved since the September 2021 Board, including any matters of note arising during this period, and to outline the activity to be carried out up until the next Board in March 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

    i.   Notes the progress update provided; and
    ii.   Notes the ongoing update to the Programme schedule and the associated revisions to forecast milestones.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To ensure the Farnham Board (Sponsoring Group) is aware of the Programme progress to date and has visibility of future Programme activity.

DETAILS:

1. The following activities have been carried out since the previous Board in September:

- Initiation of review and 'remastering' of the Programme schedule;
- Publication of the Optimised Infrastructure Plan in October 2021.

Project 1 - Short and Medium-Term interventions
- Completion of the signage installation for the HGV restrictions (excluding that on the M3) – the associated Traffic Regulation order (TRO) went live on 4 October 2021;

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- Completion of the reclassification of the A325 and associated signage and road marking changes; the changes have also been reported to Google Maps;
- Completion of the Wayfinding Strategy report;
- Preparation for the TRO consultation on the 20mph speed limit proposals – the consultation commenced on 25 November 2021 and will run until the 3 January 2022;
- Completion of Sift 2 moderation of the Medium-term interventions list;
- Submission of Community Infrastructure Levy bids to Waverley Borough Council in October 2021.

Project 2 - Town Centre and LCWIP
- Workshop held on 20 October 2021 and Local Liaison Forum (LLF) held on 21 October 2021; a draft technical note on next steps has been produced following the workshop, which will be addressed during the Town Centre agenda item;
- A topographical survey of the Town Centre has also been commissioned;
- A draft 'long list' of potential walking and cycling routes has been developed as part of the Farnham LCWIP;
- Route alignment with adjacent Councils has also been initiated.

Project 3 - Farnham A31 Corridor
- Submission of the Farnham A31 Corridor Strategic Outline Business Case to the Department of Transport in November 2021.

Project 4 - Western Link Road and Wrecclesham Relief Road
- Policy alignment review of the Western Link Road and Wrecclesham Relief Road.

2. Activity up until the next Board will focus upon:

Project 1 - Short and Medium-Term interventions
- Liaison with developer for their installation of additional HGV signage at the new Redfield Lane Roundabout;
- Continuing discussions with National Highways regarding the installation of signage on the M3;
- Further liaison with Google Maps to ensure changes to reclassification of the A325 are update;
- Progression of detailed design for the Wayfinding Strategy;
- Review and action of feedback on 20mph speed limit and traffic calming proposal consultation responses revision of designs, if applicable;
- Final review and grouping of medium-term interventions to ensure there are no duplications against the deliverables of Projects 2-4 and identify a shortlist of schemes to prioritise and take forward.

Project 2 - Town Centre and LCWIP
- Further surveys and baseline assessments for the Town Centre;
- Workshops with key stakeholders on long list of LCWIP routes and development of short list to be taken forward.

Project 3 - Farnham A31 Corridor
- Ongoing discussions with the Department for Transport.

Project 4 - Western Link Road and Wrecclesham Relief Road

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- Review of additional work required to progress and build the case for the Wrecclesham and Western Link Road, subject to any decision taken at the Farnham Board.

3. Overall, the Farnham Infrastructure Programme remains on schedule, with activity progressing in period broadly in line with expectation. However, the following forecast changes should be highlighted as arising from the ongoing schedule 'remaster':

- **Project 1 - Short and Medium-Term interventions: Wayfinding Strategy** – this has the potential to be brought forward to May 2022 to align with the opening of the Brightwell's Yard development; however, some elements of the scheme may need to be deferred to be delivered in conjunction with Project 2 – Town centre delivery (specifics to be confirmed)
- **Project 1 - Short and Medium-Term interventions: Medium Term Interventions List** – Final list to progress will be taken to the March 2022 Farnham Board
- **Project 1 - Short and Medium-Term interventions: 20 mph Zones and Speed Restrictions** – review may be required of completion date to accommodate feedback.
- **Project 2 - Town Centre and LCWIP** – forecast completion brought forward to October 2025 from January 2028 in response to Board feedback on the need for 'immediate' change
- **Project 3 - Farnham A31 Corridor** – Strategic Outline Business Case Submitted to the Department for Transport in November 2021.
- **Project 4 - Wrecclesham Relief Road** – Forecast completion brought forward to July 2029 from February 2035 to align more closely with public expectations, subject to decision taken at the Farnham Board.

4. A key milestone summary of the Programme schedule is provided in Table 1 below. It should, however, be emphasised that the 'remaster' of the Programme schedule remains ongoing, and any forecasts provided remain provisional, pending the conclusion of this review exercise.

Table 1 – Key Programme Milestones

Project [Sub-Project]	Milestone	Previous forecast	Current Forecast	Commentary	Status
Optimised infrastructure plan	Final OIP published to SCC	Oct-21	Oct-21	OIP completed and issued on 04-Oct-21	
Project 1 Short-term interventions [Rerouting of HGVs]	Implementation [complete]	Sept-21	Oct-21	Final signage on the M3 outstanding (being progressed by National Highways)	
Project 1 Short-term interventions [Removing A road category status]	Implementation [complete]	n/a	Oct-21	Complete	
Project 1 Short-term interventions [Wayfinding Strategy]	Implementation [complete]	Oct-22	May-22		
Project 1 Short-term interventions	Implementation [complete]	May-22	Dec-22	Later installation date, to accommodate potential feedback	

[20 mph Zones and Speed Restrictions]					🟧
Project 1 Medium-term interventions	Budget allocation limit	Mar-23	Mar-23		🟩
Project 2 Town Centre and LCWIP	Construction phase – finish	Jan-28	Oct-25	Implementation brought forward in response to Board feedback	🟩
Project 3 Farnham A31 Corridor	Construction phase – finish	Nov-27	Nov-27		🟩
Project 4 Wrecclesham relief road	Construction phase – finish	Feb-35	Jul-29	Delivery estimate brough forward to align more closely with public expectation	🟩

5. As discussed at the September Farnham Board, a detailed review of Programme funding sources has been initiated and is currently ongoing. Bids for seven of the schemes within the Medium-Term Interventions Pipeline have been submitted for funding from the Waverley Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy. S106 contributions have also been identified for Projects 2 and 3, and further opportunities for funding for Project 1 - Medium Term Interventions are currently being examined. The submission to the Department for Transport to secure Local Large Major funding for Project 3 – Farnham A31 Corridor has also been made in period.

6. It was agreed at the June Farnham Board that an update on key risks and issues should be provided going forward. The current key risks for the Programme, based upon post-mitigation weighting, are provided in the table below. These risks are actively managed through the Programme risk management approach.

Table 2 – Key Programme Risks

Risk title	Risk description
Cost Plan	The programme Cost Plan needs to be further developed as it is primarily based on assumptions from inception.
Public engagement outcomes	In order for the Programme to be successful the public need to be supportive of the proposals put forward
Public perception ('fake news')	Articles and negativity around the Programme in the public domain could lead to lack of support for the scheme and for it to be subsequently dropped
Student Engagement	It is incrementally more difficult to engage with students / generally most successful engagement techniques unavailable
Historic street layout	There is a risk that pedestrians cannot be suitably prioritised whilst continuing to facilitate motorised traffic within Farnham

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CONSULTATION:

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

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

8. 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

9. The cost and value for money in respect of the works will be identified within the Surrey County Council Report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

10. As proposals are developed that require necessary Surrey County Council approval, individual S151 approvals will be sought.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

11. 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

12. A Programme-level Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out in August 2021. This was approved by the Programme Team at the September Programme Board and indicated that there are currently no substantive concerns associated with the Programme's proposals based upon the level of information available.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

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

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

14. FIP activity will continue in line with the summary provided above and any further decision made by the Board regarding the Western Link Road and Wrecclesham Relief Road.

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Annexes: None

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