



Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting Items 3-9 – Progress Update



Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting

Items 3-9

DATE:	24 March 2023
REPORT OF:	TIM OLIVER – BOARD CHAIRMAN
LEAD OFFICER:	ELAINE MARTIN – PROGRAMME MANAGER
SUBJECT:	PROGRESS UPDATE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

This paper summarises the activity and progress achieved since the December 2022 Board, including any matters of note arising during this period, and outlines the activity which will be carried out up until the next Farnham Board in June 2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Notes the progress update provided; and
2. 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 OF FARNHAM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

Activities carried out since the previous board.

Project 1 - Short term interventions

Re-routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles

- Ongoing engagement with adjacent developer and Hampshire County Council to request for Heavy Goods Vehicle rerouting signage to be included at the A287 and B3349 roundabout.

Wayfinding Strategy

- Manufacture of artwork for panels for the wayfinding totems and infoboards.
- Contractor street work permits obtained for installation works.
- First phase of signage installation completed – totems installed in West Street, Falkner Road, Long Garden Way, South Street, Longbridge and Riverside 2 Car Park.
- Meeting with Southwestern Railway regarding landowner consents for signage at Farnham Station.

20mph Limits/ Zones and Speed restrictions

- Overseeing Organisation (SCC) final response to Road Safety Audit Stage 2 completed.
- Drafting of responses to objections to proposed 20mph speed limits in Upper Hale Road, Weydon Lane and Farnham Town Centre.
- Discussion with county councillors on 21.02.23 on the Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Upper Hale Road, Weydon Lane and Farnham town centre, and the opportunity of an experimental extension to the eastern end of Upper Hale Road.
- Sign off of the Summary of Objections to the Speed Limit TRO by Highways and Commissioning Manager and county councillors for Farnham North, South and Central.
- Authorisation to Advertise Notice for raised tables on Upper Hale Road, following consultation with county member for Farnham North and Surrey Police.
- Preparation to advertise second TRO for raised tables on Upper Hale Road.

Reclassifying the A325

- Scheme complete (section of A325 between Coxbridge roundabout and Shepherd & Flock roundabout).
- Continued review of google maps.

Project 1 – Medium term interventions (MTIs)

Borelli Park and Stride

- Revision of Atkins task order for preliminary design and costing feasibility study of Brightwell's Park and Stride scheme.

- Engagement with Crest Nicolson (developer), FTC and Waverley Borough Council (WBC) on interdependencies with Brightwell's development and design of the bridge and shared cycleway connecting Brightwell's Yard to Borelli Walk.

Water Lane Roundabout

- Bid for Waverley Community Infrastructure Levy funding successful – the Programme team have been allocated £404,894.00 to deliver improvements to the roundabout.

Project 2 - Town Centre

- Review and analysis of feedback received as part of the Summer 2022 consultation on Options A and B.
- Further development of the Hybrid Option presented to the December Farnham Board, taking into consideration consultation feedback on Park Row, Bear Lane, East Street, Woolmead, South Street, Union Road and Downing Street from Lower Church Lane to Long Bridge
- Modelling commenced on the minimal change option - further modelling will be required for final option.
- Generation of seven high level options for the town centre, as part of refinement of preliminary design – designs for West Street, Castle Street, The Borough and Downing Street north of Lower Church Lane remain unchanged from the option presented at the December Farnham Board
- High level design options shared with SCC officers and presented to county councillors for comment on 23.02.23.
- Engagement with SCC Highways on resurfacing works along South Street and Union Road planned for 2023/2024, to ensure alignment to proposals for the Town Centre scheme.
- Engagement with WBC and FTC officers and councillors on Town Centre options on 01.03.23, 07.03.23 and 08.03.23.
- Drafting of SCC Cabinet paper to obtain approval to commence detailed design of preferred option for the Town Centre and commence capital spend, following the completion of traffic modelling and recommendation from the Farnham Board.
- Redesign of Section 278 East Street commenced.

Project 2 – Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- SCC, WBC and FTC officer and councillor workshop on 30.01.23.
Review and finalisation of LCWIP report and executive summary, following feedback from workshop.

Project 3 – Farnham A31 Corridor

- Awaiting outcome from Department for Transport (DfT).

Project 4 – Western and Wrecclesham Bypasses

- Review of cost and environmental feasibility report for the Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses.

Wrecclesham Bridge

- Feasibility report drafted by Atkins of further, more substantial options of mitigating risks and consequences of bridge strikes – this is currently being reviewed by SCC officers.

A31 Speed Management Scheme

- Proposal to reduce the speed limit is out to statutory public consultation until Thursday 16 March 2023.

Activity up until the next Board

Project 1 - Short Term interventions

Re-routing of HGVs

- Ongoing engagement with developer and Hampshire County Council.

Wayfinding Strategy

- Completion of Brightwell's Yard artwork for totem.
- Submission of land consents application for Farnham Station.
- Manufacture of remaining totems for second phase of installation.
- Installation of totems at Brightwell's Yard and Farnham Station to be programmed.
- Agree wayfinding maintenance agreement with FTC.

20mph Limits/ Zones and Speed restrictions

- Final pricing of construction by Ringway, SCC's framework contractor, for the installation of signage for speed limits in town centre, Upper Hale Road and Weydon Lane.
- Programme installation works.
- Installation of signage in Weydon Lane and Town Centre (signage in Upper Hale to be installed in parallel with proposed speed calming measures).
- Review of additional funding for experimental order for eastern extension in Upper Hale Road.
- Commission speed surveys and design work for eastern extension in Upper Hale Road.
- Continued preparation for TRO for speed tables on Upper Hale Road.

Reclassifying the A325

- Scheme complete (section of A325 between Coxbridge roundabout and Shepherd & Flock roundabout).
- Continued review of google maps.

Project 1 - Medium term interventions (MTIs)

Borelli Park and Stride

- Instruction to Atkins for feasibility, design and costing of scheme.
- Commence process for making a Cycle Track Order and Planning Application for the Borelli Park and Stride route, including initial consultation.

Water Lane Roundabout

- Commence detailed design for Water Lane Roundabout improvements.
- Instruction and completion of Stage 1 Road Safety Audit for Water Lane Roundabout.

Project 2 - Town Centre

- Re-design of Brightwell's - East Street S278 Brightwell's scheme by Programme Team.
- Review of car park information from Guildford Borough Council to inform preliminary design.
- Commence air quality analysis of options, including mapping.
- Continue to progress traffic modelling for the hybrid options, the results of which are due to be reported to the June Farnham Board.
- Present Cabinet paper to commence detailed design of preferred option for the Town Centre and capital spend, following the completion of traffic modelling and recommendation from the Farnham Board.

Project 2 – LCWIP

- Following endorsement, Farnham LCWIP to be taken forward to SCC Cabinet Member for Transport, Infrastructure and Growth, with a recommendation to approve the Strategic Plan.

Project 3 - Farnham A31 Corridor

- Awaiting outcome from DfT. SCC have and continue to contact DfT for progress on this matter.

Project 4 - Western and Wrecclesham Bypasses

- Finalisation of initial cost and environmental feasibility work.

Wrecclesham Bridge

- SCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience and Jeremy Hunt MP to write to the Chief Executive of Network Rail to ask them to prioritise the painting of Wrecclesham Bridge to make it more conspicuous. SCC does not have a date from Network Rail as to when this work will take place.
- Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to ask the Department for Transport to work with the haulage industry to do more to encourage heavy goods drivers to use heavy goods vehicle specific Sat Navs. These will warn drivers of low bridges up ahead and help to plan journeys that avoid inappropriate routes (for example narrow country lanes, and roads with weight restrictions).

A31 Speed Management Scheme

- Comments and objections to the statutory public consultation to be reviewed with the Local Councillors to decide on proceeding, cancelling or amending. If proceeding, the new lower speed limit will be implemented as soon as possible afterwards.

Key Milestones

The key milestone summary of the Programme schedule is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Programme Milestones

Project [Sub-Project]	Milestone	Previous forecast	Current Forecast	Status/ Comments
Project 1 - Rerouting of HGVs	Implementation - complete	Oct-21	Oct-21	Additional signage on A287/B3349 roundabout
Project 1- Removing A road category status	Implementation - complete	Oct-21	Oct-21	
Project 1 - Wayfinding Strategy	Implementation - complete	Jan- 23	May-23	Installation delays due to delay to completion of Brightwell's Yard and obtaining land consent on land outside of highway boundary.
Project 1 - 20 mph Zones &Speed Restrictions	Implementation – complete (first phase)	May-22	Jun-23	Due to amendments to design of speed calming measures. A 2nd TRO for speed tables will need to be advertised.
Project 1 - Medium-term interventions	Budget allocation limit	Mar-23	Mar-23	
Project 2 - Town Centre	Construction phase – finish	Oct-25	Oct-25	
Project 2 - LCWIP	Detailed Design – finish	N/A	Mar-23	Milestone now changed as this is a strategic document for 10+ years' worth of investment. Farnham Board should define the approval of the strategic document.
Project 3 - Farnham A31 Corridor	Construction phase – finish	Nov-27	TBC	Still awaiting outcome of DfT bid, once notified the programme will be reprofiled.
Project 4 - Wrecclesham Bypasses	Construction phase – finish	Jul-29	Jul-29	Review of scheme viability
North and South Farnham Studies	TBA	N/A	N/A	Review following town centre modelling outcomes
Western Bypass	TBA	N/A	N/A	Review of scheme viability

Key Programme Risks

The current key risks for the Programme are provided in Table 2 below. These risks are actively managed through the Programme risk management approach.

Table 2 - Programme Risks

Risk title	Risk description
Funding Availability Programme Wide	Risk of lack of funding available to deliver the full programme.
Alignment with evolving central government policy	There is increased number of changes to governmental policy which may affect the business case (s). Additional time and cost impact due to reshaping of existing business case to suit new requirements.
Project Costs	Given the cost assumptions made to date, there are concerns that once the projects are more defined, they may become unaffordable for FIP.
Scope Creep	As a result of additional work being added to the programme, there is a risk that additional work may reduce the funding available for other projects and schemes within FIP. Finances for the programme are highly constrained and mostly unsecured.
Inflation	As a result of increased inflation costs in 2022 (~7-10%), there is likely to be an increase in costs previously estimated for the Programme.
Managing Stakeholder Expectations	As part of the programme, there are many stakeholders, with differing aspirations for the Programme. This results in many contrasting views to consider as part of the solutions delivered within the Farnham Infrastructure Programme.

Risk management and implications

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

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

Section 151 officer commentary

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

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer

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

A Programme-level Equality Impact Assessment was carried out in August 2021. This was approved by the Programme Team at the September 2021 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

There are no other implications in respect of this Report.

What happens next

FIP activity will continue in line with the summary provided above.

Contact Officer:

Elaine Martin
Programme Manager
Elaine.Martin@surreycc.gov.uk

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