



Farnham Board

Items 3-6 Progress Report

14 June 2024



Farnham Infrastructure Programme

Farnham Board Meeting

Items 3-5

DATE: 14 June 2024

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 March 2024 Farnham 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 October 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Programme projects completed,
2. Notes the progress update provided; and
3. 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.

Programme Projects Completed

Project	Element
Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision developed. • Optimised Infrastructure Plan developed, consulted on and endorsed. • Medium term interventions sifted into allocated projects.
Wayfinding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy completed and approved. • Artwork designed and approved. • Totems manufactured. • 13 of 15 totems installed (final two to be installed as part of the town centre improvement scheme).
A325 reclassification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study and surveys completed. • Detailed design approved. • Construction completed.
Re-routing of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility study and surveys completed. • Traffic Regulation Order advertised and finalised. • Detailed design completed. • Construction completed. • Review of other areas and negotiation with National Highways and Hampshire County Council. • Design of Hampshire signs completed.
20mph Limits/Zones and Speed restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility completed. • Detailed design completed for the three zones. • Traffic Regulation Order advertised for three areas. • Traffic Regulation Order legal for Weydon Lane and Town Centre. • Installation of signage in Weydon Lane and Town Centre completed.
Borelli Cycle Improvement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with developer on redesign of the connecting pedestrian and cycling bridge. • Ecological, topographical and tree surveys completed.
Local Cycling and Walking Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farnham LCWIP report completed. • Priority cycle/walk routes agreed for further development. • Funding allocated to progress feasibility designs. • WBC proposed additions/updates to LCWIP report put forward to WBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Resources committee.
Water Lane Roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary design completed. • Successful Waverley Community Infrastructure Levy bid of £404k. • Detail design completed. • Construction completed.
Town Centre Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility and initial surveys completed. • Future town visualisation and virtual reality completed. • Public consultation. • Review and design of East Street developer works. • Strategic modelling completed. • Surrey Coalition of Disabled People site visit. • Business questionnaire completed. • Successful Community Infrastructure Levy Bid of £3.25 million. • Traffic Regulation Order for parking advertised and finalised. • Surveys (basements, CCTV, Ground Penetration Radar (GPR) and paving coring) completed.

Farnham A31 Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility design completed. • Initial public consultation. • Submission of Strategic Outline Business Case to Department for Transport (DfT) for funding. • Approval by Treasury to commence Outline Business Case development.
Western and Wrecclesham Bypasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment of policy review completed.
Wrecclesham Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation removed. • Highway signing enhanced. • Bridge painted to improve conspicuousness. • Feasibility report on longer-term solutions completed.
A31 Speed Management Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed limit reduction completed.

Activities carried out since the previous Farnham Board

20mph Limits/Zones and Speed Restrictions

- Issued responses to objections from Traffic Regulation Order for 20mph speed limit and physical measures on Upper Hale Road.
- Readying for construction including obtaining road space, agreement from Waverley Environmental Health for the works and engagement with the contractor.

Borelli Cycle Improvement Scheme

- Discussions with developer of Brightwells Yard for construction of southern section.
- Arboriculture survey.
- Engagement with Environment Agency to confirm requirements for construction works.
- Ongoing preliminary design.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- Farnham LCWIP being led/delivered by SCC Transport Policy Team.
- Stage 2 feasibility design proposal drafted; scope of work in review to finalise priority cycle/walk routes to take forward within available project budget.
- Farnham LCWIP report update to capture recent stakeholder activity for consensus reached on priority routes in addition to WBC proposed 'maintenance updates' to final report.
- WBC proposed additions/updates to LCWIP report put forward to WBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Resources committee.
- WBC delegated authority agreed to approve addendum report for adoption, subject to further engagement with SCC/WBC/FTC Cllrs.

Water Lane Roundabout

- Construction commenced on site 7 March 2024 and the toucan crossing is now in use.

Town Centre Improvements

- Ongoing detailed design.
- Review of bus journey times and mitigation alongside extensive engagement with Stagecoach.
- Published decision report for the parking, loading and bus stops consultation.
- Engagement with contractor including works phasing and site compound.
- Ongoing development of communications plan for the construction phase.
- Preparation for the Traffic Regulation Order and Statutory Notices for advertisement.
- Principle of material palette, landscaping, and street furniture.

Farnham A31 Corridor

- Pre-Outline Business Case (OBC) activities to update critical parts of the business case since the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) was submitted in Nov 2021. This includes a cost-effective review and validation of the outcomes of the SOBC and identify key steps required to proceed to OBC.
- Submission of programme to DfT for review.

Activity up until the next Farnham Board

20mph Limits/Zones and Speed restrictions

- Completion of the construction of Upper Hale Road 20mph in July/August 2024.
- Order made for the Upper Hale Road 20mph speed limit.

Borelli Cycle Improvement Scheme

- Engagement with contractor including site walkover.
- Finalisation of preliminary design including lighting and landscaping.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

- Stage 2 programme; feasibility design of priority cycle/walk schemes to commence following engagement with SCC/WBC/FTC Cllrs to discuss proposed updates to the Farnham LCWIP plan.
- Farnham LCWIP report update/addendum for completion and publishing.

Water Lane Roundabout

- Inclusion of the 'Keep Clear' markings following the Road Safety Audit in early July.
- Commence post-construction monitoring.

Town Centre Improvements

- Advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Order and Statutory Notices.
- Completion of detailed design.
- Pre-construction activities including communications, phasing plan and traffic management.
- Advanced communication with residents and businesses.
- Start enabling works including site compound and utility works.
- Additional monitoring and evaluation of wider town centre including radar surveys for traffic.

Farnham A31 Corridor

- Programming activities required for OBC development.
- Ongoing discussions with DfT and Transport for the South-East.

Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses

- Ongoing review of scheme viability including environmental impact and cost.

Key Milestones

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

Table 1 - Programme Milestones

Project	Milestone	Current Forecast	Status/Comments
Rerouting of HGVs	Construction complete		Additional signage on Hampshire CC land being installed.
Removing A-road category status	Construction complete		
Wayfinding Strategy	Construction complete		
20mph Speed Limits Weydon Lane and Town Centre	Construction complete		
20mph Speed Limits Upper Hale Road	Construction starts	July 24	
Borelli Cycle Improvement Scheme	Construction starts	Dec 24	Estimated construction start date.
LCWIP	Strategic plan endorsed	TBC	Stage 2 feasibility design/development being prepared to commence.
Water Lane	Construction complete		
Town Centre Improvements	Construction starts	Sep-24	
Farnham A31 Corridor		TBC	DfT have confirmed the Farnham A31 Corridor SOBC has been successful, given the delay, the programme will be reprofiled.
Wrecclesham and Western Bypasses		TBC	Review of scheme viability.
North and South Farnham Studies		TBC	Review following town centre modelling outcomes.
Western Bypass		TBC	Review of scheme viability.

Key Programme Risks

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

Table 2 – Programme Risks

Risk title	Risk description
Inflation	Due to current uncertain economic environment, inflation is likely to impact programme costs.
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 as well as the 2024 general election which may affect the business case(s) and scheme viability due to changes in political priority. Additional time and cost impact due to reshaping of existing business case and overall programme to suit new requirements.
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 the Farnham Infrastructure Programme. Finances for the programme are highly constrained.
Achievable Programme	The Farnham Infrastructure Programme is made up of a number of interdependent schemes and projects, along with other significant activities in the town. A viable delivery programme is required to ensure successful outcomes. It should be noted that the programme for the town centre has been requested to be accelerated prior to the surveys and detailed design being fully completed. Thus, there is a risk that unforeseen issues could arise resulting in a delay to the requested 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 some may require Surrey County Council approval, individual S151 approvals will be sought.

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer

The Board has no executive powers, therefore 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.

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