

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****LOCAL COMMITTEE (ELMBRIDGE)****DATE: 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013****LEAD OFFICER: NICK HEALEY, AREA TEAM MANAGER (NE)****SUBJECT: PETITIONS RELATING TO HIGHWAYS****DIVISION: ALL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Every year a number of petitions are submitted to Surrey County Council's Local Committees, which relate to perceived Highways concerns. This briefing note outlines how the Highways Service responds to these petitions.

- 1.1 Every year local residents submit petitions to Surrey County Council's Local Committees, which relate to a range of Highways concerns. Typical concerns include:
- Speed limits and speeding;
  - Pedestrian crossing facilities;
  - Safety concerns;
  - Maintenance issues.
- 1.2 Usually when a petition is presented, the Area Team Manager will listen to the petitioner's presentation, and make notes of the Committee's discussion that follows. A written response is then prepared for submission to the following meeting of the Local Committee, which comments on the petitioners' concerns, any suggested solutions, any feasible solutions, and if appropriate a proposed way forward.
- 1.3 As with all requests received by the Highways Service, some petitioners' requests are simply unfeasible, for example, if the solution requires acquisition of land or if the solution was so expensive so as to be out of reach within any realistically foreseeable timeframe or if the negative impact of the solution would significantly outweigh the benefits.
- 1.4 As with all requests received by the Highways Service, some petitioners' requests are feasible.
- 1.5 Unfortunately it is not possible to implement every feasible request. Generally speaking the demand exceeds the financial means of the Local Committees to implement measures, and therefore each Committee is obliged to prioritise those measures that are the highest priority in any given Financial Year. Petitioners' demands compete not only with each other, but

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also with historical petitions and requests, and with maintenance requirements of the network.

- 1.6 On behalf of Surrey County Council's Local Committee for Elmbridge, officers maintain a list of schemes, that have arisen out of petitions, and other suggestions received by the Highways Service. This list is included as Annex A. The total value of the schemes in this list is approximately £1.5m. Members should note that a number of schemes – those whose cost is out of reach of the Local Committee – are not included within this list. The Assistant Director published a guide for Members outlining the bigger picture relating to Highways budgets, and also typical costs of typical measures. This has been included as Annex B.
- 1.7 This Financial Year the Elmbridge Local Committee's capital and revenue budgets for Highways totalled approximately £716,000. Of this approximately £133,000 has been prioritised for implementation of improvements to the Highway network, the like of which are typically requested by petitioners and others. The remainder has been prioritised for either capital or revenue maintenance works: resurfacing, drainage maintenance and repairs, vegetation management etc.
- 1.8 In practice even if a petition is received favourably by a Local Committee, very often the petitioners need to wait some time before their concerns are prioritised. Priority decisions are made by the Local Committees with advice and recommendation from officers, and so it is not as simple as waiting in a queue. Occasionally a high priority concern comes to the fore ahead of a historical concern, due to safety considerations for example.
- 1.9 If Members or petitioners would like to know the status of any request, and where it falls in terms of technical priority, officers would be pleased to provide this information.

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**Contact Officer:** Nick Healey, Area Team Manager (NE)

**Consulted:** None.

**Annexes:** 2

**Sources/background papers:** None.

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