

West Crawley County Local Committee

Wednesday 24 January 2007

**Highways and Transport Works Programme
2007/2008 and Future Programmes**

**Report by Director for Environment and
Development and Head of Highways and Transport**

Executive Summary

The Highways and Transport Works Programme 2007/2008 and Future Programme document identifies structural maintenance and integrated transport schemes that are planned for implementation during the coming two financial years. This is issued for consultation with interested parties. The programme is amended in light of the comments received during the consultation period and the final draft presented to the Cabinet Member for approval. In addition to the programme an annex identifying "Proposed Schemes to be Progressed if Developer Funding is Secured" has also been prepared and is amended in light of consultation.

In drawing up the Proposals, consideration has already been given to the Area Transport Plan for West Crawley. In addition the programme has already been subject to initial consultation to provide each of the CLCs with the opportunity to ensure it reflects local priorities. This report gives the Committee a further opportunity to comment on schemes in the West Crawley County Local Committee area that may be included in the Works Programme and to propose any changes prior to Cabinet Member approval being sought in March 2007.

Conclusions

The list of schemes in the West Crawley County Local Committee area proposed for 2007/08 is set out in Appendix One. The programme has been identified and assessed against countywide criteria used to prioritise schemes and been subject to initial consultation with the CLC to reflect local priorities.

Recommendations

That this Committee agrees a response to the consultation on the Works Programme.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Highways and Transport Works Programme 2007/08 and Future Programme document identifies both structural maintenance and integrated transport schemes that are due to be undertaken during the coming two financial years. The programme includes structural maintenance works on roads, footways, structures and drainage, provision of new footways, public transport improvements, cycling measures, road safety and traffic calming

schemes, pedestrian crossings, street lighting and traffic control measures.

- 1.2 The programme for consultation is compiled as a 'Scheme Finder' and sets out the proposed schemes relating to highways and transport works for each of the CLCs in the County. Each of these listings is then arranged alphabetically by parish to enable all interested parties to quickly identify schemes within their geographical areas of interest. Each item identified within the Scheme Finder shows the type of work to be carried out and the financial year in which the works are proposed to take place. The schemes are not listed in any form of priority order. The listing for this Committee's area is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 In addition to the scheme finder, an annex is issued for consultation that lists "Proposed Schemes to be Progressed should Developer Funding be Secured". The document lists potential improvement schemes that could be associated with development proposals. Funding for these projects would be secured as part of the planning process (Section 106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990). The document is available on the County Council's website at the following address: <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/ccm/navigation/roads-and-transport/development-control/>
- 1.4 Each CLC chairman was asked to consider up to 10 years of potential highways schemes during autumn 2006 and identify local priorities, These priorities have been taken into account when developing the programme.

2 **Proposals**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 shows a list of schemes that have been identified within the West Crawley County Local Committee area.
- 2.2 These schemes have originated from a number of sources including:
 - Requests from elected members, members of the public, parish, town, district and borough councils;
 - Routine highway inspections;
 - Area Transport Plans;
 - Reported accidents;
 - Liability claims; and
 - Local studies and initiatives into congestion, school travel, public transport and sustainable travel.
- 2.3 To provide an objective basis on which to produce a programme of work, schemes are placed in order of priority taking into account a wide range of factors such as:-
 - Safety;
 - Importance of the highway;
 - Highway condition;
 - Environment and location;
 - The needs of different road users; and,
 - The level of support for the scheme.
- 2.4 CLC priorities, which were identified at the initial consultation stage during the autumn, have been considered in the development of this programme.

3 Discussion

3.1 The schemes shown in the Draft Works Programme are included due to their contribution towards the achievement of the objectives in the West Sussex Transport Plan;

- More accessible services especially for those most in need;
- Less congested roads;
- Transport networks and services which are safer and less polluting;
- Improved local environments which encourage economic vitality and healthy and sustainable travel, leading to better quality of life for residents.

Schemes are initially placed in the programme based on an objective assessment of their need according to the type of work to be carried out. Each type of work has its own set of assessment criteria usually based on technical data so that it is possible to compare the relative priority of schemes within that group.

3.2 There are regular requests for new schemes and proposals to address transport issues and these are considered on an objective basis as to their relative priorities against other similar schemes. The assessment criteria do not, however, allow for direct comparisons between schemes from different areas of work e.g. a carriageway resurfacing scheme cannot be compared to a pedestrian crossing or a street lighting scheme. There are separate budgets for each type of work to reflect this. The CLC is able to make judgements about local priority, particularly across types of work, and hence its views are vital in refining the objectively assessed programme.

3.3 With all highways and transport schemes there are costs and resources associated with feasibility, consultation, design and other preparation before they can be implemented. Most schemes in the 2007/2008 Works Programme have already had some feasibility and design work undertaken and therefore it is only those schemes that would be simple to implement that could be added to the programme at this stage. Schemes requiring significant preparation are only likely to be considered for future years' programmes.

3.4 The progression of schemes in the programme will depend on a variety of factors, such as contract price inflation as well as emergencies and other unforeseen events. Throughout the year it may therefore be necessary for the Head of Highways & Transport to adjust the Programme of Works to deal with these circumstances. Any amendments to the programme will be undertaken in consultation with Local Members and with the agreement of the Cabinet Member.

3.5 The Committee is requested to consider the list contained in Appendix 1 and give comments that will assist in the process of compiling the programme of works to be implemented over the next two years and beyond. All comments will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport in March when the final Programme will be approved.

3.6 The assessment process contains a range of objective factors but also seeks to consider factors such as the level of support for the scheme. This is

important in terms of the deliverability of schemes but also so that priorities can reflect local views. In that context, the views of the CLC on the proposed programme act as a further opportunity to test the assessment process against the priorities of local communities.

4 Resource Implications and Value for Money

- 4.1 The Highways and Transport capital programme for 2007/08 remains subject to approval at the next meeting of the full County Council on 9th February. The provisional programme provides for expenditure of £15.531m on schemes that are due to commence in 2007/08 and £19.095m for schemes scheduled to start in 2008/09. The schemes approved in the Works Programme 2007/2008 will be financed within these limits.
- 4.2 The works programme is designed to help deliver the aspirations of the County Strategy, Local Area Agreement and Local Transport Plan. In particular progress towards key objectives such as reducing the numbers of people killed or seriously injured on our roads, improving the condition of our roads and encouraging safe, alternative modes of travelling to school. The objectives criteria also ensures that the schemes deliver value for money.

5 Risk Management Implications

There are no Risk Management Implications

6 Crime and Disorder Act Implications

There are no crime and disorder implications identified at this stage.

7 Human Rights Act Implications

The County Council's protocol on consultation will be followed to ensure Human Rights obligations are met.

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[Appendix One](#)

Highways and Transport Works Programme 2007/2008 and Future Programmes consultation draft dated 11 January 2007.

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