

FULL COUNCIL

2 FEBRUARY 2021

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS

1. Council Update Regarding Environment & Highways

1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Members that a decision making session was held on 5th January 2021, covering CPH Environment & Highways.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which have been made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

1.2.2 Attached to this report is a list of decisions made.

1.3 Decisions

1.3.1 COVID 19 - Emergency Active Travel Fund Project

1.3.2 I received an update on the COVID 19 Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) and was asked to note the lessons learned from Tranche 1 of the programme, including the importance of keeping residents informed throughout the project.

1.3.3 In November 2020, the Active Travel fund was developed (removing the 'Emergency' element) to continue the momentum gained and to deliver more opportunities for us all to choose cycling and walking for our day-to-day journeys. I was asked to accept the Tranche 2 Active Travel Funding capital allocation and progress four schemes through preliminary design and public consultation phases, which I was pleased to do.

1.3.4 Further, I agreed to receive a further report in late 2021 on the outcome of the design and consultation stage of the project

1.3.5 Lastly, I agreed that temporary 20mph speed limit orders operating in Knowle and Meriden continue and be considered with others as part of the Borough wide speed limit review due to take place in 2021.

1.4 Council Plan and Priorities

1.4.1 The four schemes proposed below will provide a significant improvement on cycle provision within the borough and enable more cycling journeys to take place. This will provide significant health, environmental, social and economic benefits.

1.4.2 The Dickens Heath and Knowle cycle ways have been identified as priorities within the Solihull Cycle Network Plan, developed as part of the Cycling and Walking Strategy. The data gathered through the development of the Cycle Network Plan identified these two corridors as having high potential for increased cycle journeys. The provision of additional cycle parking facilities was also highly requested in some of our smaller local retail centres. The locations are:

- A - Dickens Heath to Solihull Town Centre cycleway along the B4102 corridor,
- B - Knowle to Solihull Town Centre cycleway along the A4141 corridor,
- C - Milsons Wood to Meriden Village cycleway along the B4014 corridor, and
- D - Borough wide cycle parking

1.5 **Good News and Issues of Interest**

1.5.1 From Officers within Highway Infrastructure I am pleased to relay the following:

Drainage, Flood Risk Management and Tanker Services

- 1.5.2 In early January we signed a contract for the final design and installation of Property Level Resilience measures for four initial Flood Risk Management schemes in Shirley and Cheswick Green that were approved at my decision session in September 2020. The contractor (Watertight) will install the schemes on our behalf, with the aim of a completion at Easter time.
- 1.5.3 In January, initial survey work was also undertaken at an individual property level for households in the Nethercote Gardens area in Shirley. This work forms part of a further Flood Risk Management scheme, which was approved by at my Decision Session in October 2020. Once we have received the detail from the survey, we will seek to appoint a contractor to carry out the final design and installation of measures for this particular scheme.

Asset Management

- 1.5.4 The winter service has been in place since 16th November 2020, with a quiet start to the season. However, the Christmas week saw its highest number of treatments for a number of years, with six treatments being undertaken. We have enough salt stock to ensure we can treat the roads through an average winter.
- 1.5.5 Our resurfacing programmes are well in hand, with major sites all due to be completed in February. The remaining sites are:

Old Station Road
Bannerlea Road
Dalewood Road
Brockhall Grove
Farnborough Drive
Haselour Road
Cambridge Drive Spur 118 and Spur 98
Worcester Walk
Grey Mill Croft
Beauchamp Road / Baginton Close
Rushford Close
Highlands Road
Windward Way
Briarwood Close
Longleat Close / Chatsworth Close
Marsh House Farm Lane
Wootton Green Lane
Watery Lane
Arbour Tree Lane

- 1.5.6 The additional pothole crew has been successfully dealing with all requests within the 10 day time frame.

Projects

- 1.5.7 Fillongley Bridge Replacement: Working with the contractor we have outline costs and programme. These are being tested to see if there are any efficiency savings. Officers will now embark on the pre-construction phase where the costs and programme will be further developed to ensure best value to the Council. Current projections show site work commencing in mid-2021.
- 1.5.8 Smarter Resilient Assets (SRA) Project: This work stream aims to enhance and improve traffic and asset management with new technology solutions. An Outline Business Case (OBC) was produced at the end of November 2020. The OBC has been considered by the SMBC (UKC) officer Transport Steering Group and is expected to be reported to the UKC Programme Board in February 2021. The report will then be presented to the West Midlands Combined Authority at its next Gateway Meeting. The main element of the works is the deployment of new CCTV/traffic sensors on the local highway network (subject to the progress of a TfWM region-wide sensor project).
- 1.5.9 The Sustainable Travel Business Support Team has recently successfully negotiated:
- Three cycle maintenance points being provided in Solihull town centre, Shirley High Street and Whitlock's End Station
 - DEFRA grants have been awarded to Birmingham Business Park and the NEC for e-bikes and EV charging schemes.
- 1.5.10 During the COVID-19 restrictions, as part of the Schools' Transport Demand Programme, which has been running since September 2020, the Team has supported 13 schools, reaching a student audience of c19,200.
- 1.5.11 Through the Council's Cycle Training Delivery Centre, overseen by 1st4Sport, Level 2 Cycling Instructor courses have continued to be delivered to the Council's own team of trainers and to officers from Dudley Council and Worcestershire County Council. This important course, recently converted to on-line learning, will enable continued delivery of the Bikeability Cycle Training courses when schools re-open later this year.
- 1.5.12 The Council's Urban Traffic Control Centre has successfully completed migration of its traffic control systems to the Cloud, thereby enabling improved remote working, resilience and information sharing with the Regional Transport Co-ordination Centre (RTCC), operated by Transport for West Midlands. Going forward, this will support better co-ordination of events, incidents and help reduce congestion and improve air quality.
- 1.6 **Future Decisions**
- (a) Review of Parking Displacement
 - (b) Asset Management and Service Priorities 2021/22
 - (c) Digital Average Speed Enforcement Project Update