

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024 - 10.00

ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS

Chairman:	County Councillor Sue Lissimore
Panel Members:	County Councillors: Lewis Barber, Mark Cory, Simon Crow, David King, Lee Scordis City Councillors: Kemal Çufoglu Michael Lilley, Andrea Luxford-Vaughan and Jeremy Hagon Parish Councillor: Sue Allen-Sheppard
Officers:	Essex Highways: Jon Simmons –Highways Liaison Officer Daniel MacLean – Highways Liaison Team Leader
Secretariat:	Colchester City Council: Robert Carmichael – Democratic Services Officer.

Item		Owner
1.	Welcome and Introductions: The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting including the newly appointed Members.	
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Jane Thompson	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on the 17 September 2024 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2024 were confirmed as a correct record.	

<p>4.</p>	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer detailed on Minute 6 on page 4 that for the smaller schemes these would be included in the new financial year with all designs costed and shown on the schemes and that these would be looked as a priority in 2025/2026.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that the additional £1500 of revenue funding had been allocated.</p> <p>A question was raised regarding whether any additional revenue funding from underspends on other panels had been acquired. It was confirmed that an update on this should be received shortly after the meeting. Concern was raised from Members regarding the amount of work on these that were coming through.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2023/24</p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of the previously allocated schemes and detailed that the following schemes had been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trinity Street Colchester – Signage Review - Opposite Parsons Field, Crown Street, Dedham – Raised Kerbs - Priory Street j/w Fennings Chase, Colchester – One Ways Signage - Constantine Road / Hamilton Road Colchester – 20MPH roundels - Nr Oaks Academy School, School Road, Langham – Kerbs - The Street j/w A1124, Wakes Colne – Flood Warning Boards - B1026 Peldon to Salcott – Traffic Management Improvements - Camulos Academy, Whitmore Drive – Footway link to school <p>Updates were given on the following items:</p> <p>12. Little Foxburrows, Colchester – Dropped Kerbs – Objections had been received regarding the TRO and a Cabinet Member decision was required for this to progress.</p> <p>17. Wivenhoe – Cycle Stands – The specification had been agreed and the delivery was being arranged.</p> <p>1. Shrub End Road, Colchester- Pedestrian Crossing – This was currently waiting for an implementation date to be agreed.</p> <p>3. Footpath 17, Myland – Surface Upgrade – The Panel heard that Cllr King had been contacted, as the PROW had been diverted and that as such, the works were not now warranted at that location and it was proposed that these works were cancelled.</p>	

	<p>Concern was raised by the Panel whether the programme of works could be completed by the end of the year. In response to this the Highways Liaison Officer outlined that they had also raised these concerns but had been reassured that the works would be completed.</p> <p>Further concerns were raised regarding the timescales and whether this needed bringing to Cllr Cunninghams attention now or whether the Panel should wait.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that they had been meeting with the Design Team Manager to ensure that everything was lined up for delivery and that they had been keeping the Cabinet Member up to date on the progress.</p> <p>Members expressed their severe concern with some of the delays to schemes and that the panel did not expect any more significant delays.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that 7. A1124 London Road j/w Straight Road, Colchester Traffic Management improvements could be funded through the resurfacing programme. The Panel asked that this be linked to the resurfacing programme if possible subject to the results of the feasibility study.</p> <p>The Committee heard that for 5. Footpath 5 off Tollgate Road, Stanway – PROW access improvements, that this scheme design was being finalised and funding for implementation would need to be requested in the 25/26 budget.</p> <p>Members discussed items that had been sent to the Chairs Panel for decision and asked for updates on these schemes. The Highways Liaison Officer responded that the meeting in March would provide an update on those awaiting funding from the Chair's Panel and that these were all now showing on the report before Members.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that they would update local Members offline regarding proposed footway works along Maldon Road, Tiptree.</p> <p>Members noted the report.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on schemes awaiting funding.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer presented the report to the Committee outlining that the design team had additional capacity in Q4 for more schemes and it was suggested to Members that they put forward design schemes in date order of submission.</p>	

	<p>Members discussed the proposal with some Panel Members voicing the view that validation applications should be looked at first.</p> <p>Members discussed the fairness of choosing the schemes via date order and whether the Panel should instead look at schemes in the round and their benefits and not solely in date order.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that £20,000 could be allocated to validations to clear these as well. The Committee heard that there had been extensive work undertaken with regards to the validation process and detailed that this would be detailed further in the first meeting of the new year.</p> <p>Some Members queried the numbering of some items and date of reference. The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that some schemes had been resurrected and that they would give further clarity to Members on this.</p> <p>The Panel resolved to allocate £20,000 towards clearing validation requests and to fund the following design schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1. Hythe Quay, Colchester- Pedestrian Crossing - 7. High Street j/w Queens Street, Colchester – Kerbing improvements - 8. Chapel Corner, B1508 Main Road, Wormingford – Bus Stop Improvements. 	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Revenue Funding and Traffic Survey Requests 2023/2024</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer presented the report to the Committee outlining the schemes that were funded and that there were a large number of schemes that were unfunded amounting to £9,734.</p> <p>Concern was raised from some Members regarding replacement batteries from TELENT.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader responded that Essex County Council had a contract with TELENT which did not include any revenue funding for maintenance and detailed that other avenues were being explored for Parishes to pay for this upkeep through ECC. The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that they would provide further information to Members offline for this.</p> <p>Members discussed the report on issues including: not forgetting the non-parished areas, that TELENT would not directly accept funding.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader confirmed that any residual budget from the previous reports would be returned to the Capital Budget and that there could be additional funds for the revenue budget forthcoming but this was yet to be confirmed but if it was</p>	

	possible then they would contact Members via email to agree a way forward.	
8.	Any Other Business None	
9.	Date of next meetings: Via Video call: - Tuesday 18 March 2025 – 10:00	