

LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL – MINUTES AND ACTIONS

	PRESENT:
Date: 29th March 2016	Panel Members: Cllr Keith Bobbin, Cllr Anthony Hedley, Cllr Mark Ellis, Cllr Malcolm Buckley, Cllr Nigel Le Gresley, Cllr Kay Twitchen, Cllr Kerry Smith
Venue: Committee Room 4, County Hall	
Apologies: Cllr Melissa McGeorge, Cllr William Archibald	Other Attendees: Will Price – Highway Liaison Officer, Bradley Blackwell – Apprentice, Cllr Ray Howard – Deputy Cabinet Member, Vicky Presland- Head of Design Services, Andy Champ- Network Operations Manager, Jasmine Wiles- Apprentice/Minute taker

Item:	Action:	Action Owner:
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Cllr Bobbin welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>All present introduced themselves.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 14th Jan 2016 and Matters Arising</p> <p>Councillor Bobbin led the Panel through the previous meeting’s minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Buckley re-raised the possibility of introducing “pedestrians crossing” warning signage at A129 Southend Rd/ Bakers Farm Close.</p> <p>WP reminded Members that the senior engineer for the area had advised that the location did not meet the criteria. Cllr Le Gresley disagreed with this viewpoint and insisted that the signs should be</p>	

	<p>installed despite the senior engineer's guidance. This sentiment was supported by the Panel. There was a long discussion surrounding the suitability of the signs. Vicky Presland advised that the Panel could technically pursue the signs if they were against local Policy subject to approval by the Cabinet Member. WP advised that he would pursue the signs on behalf of the Panel in a manner which was in-keeping with LHP governance principles and would report back on his progress.</p>	<p>WP</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Potential Scheme List</p> <p><u>Budget Update</u></p> <p>WP updated the Panel on the budget, advising that all Panel's had seen their budgets reduced by 50%. He advised that the Panel should seek to approve schemes (and carry over incomplete schemes) to a value of 160% of their new £500,000 budget.</p> <p>Cllr Buckley stated that 160% budget allocation would be excessive and undeliverable and that perhaps 120/25% would be more advisable to ensure that outstanding schemes could be delivered.</p> <p>WP and VP discussed the reasons why over-allocation was recommended, but advised the Panel that they were not obliged to over-allocate to 160%. VP let the Panel know that a number of schemes had been historically conservatively estimated, and as a result actual scheme expenditure was often less than the original scheme allocation. She advised that Essex Highways were working on estimating tools which would enable more accurate scheme estimates but in the meantime re-iterated that over-allocation was a good idea.</p> <p>Cllr Howard discussed the reasoning behind the LHP budget reduction and told Members that the maintenance budget had been significantly increased. He suggested that the Panel should seek to pursue opportunities to match fund with Basildon BC and other organisations, and should seek to use S106 contributions rather than LHP budget wherever possible.</p> <p>Cllr Bobbin informed the Panel that Basildon BC had rejected Cllr Johnson's invitation to match fund the LHP budget.</p>	

There was a long discussion surrounding developer contributions. Cllr Hedley and VP were able to update Members from their respective positions in this field. VP advised that contributions were now often sought via S278 rather than S106. The implications of this for the LHP were discussed.

Cllr Le Gresley voiced his frustration at the lack of physical scheme delivery that had occurred with LHP funding. He felt that too much time and money was being spent on Feasibility Studies and designs.

VP agreed with Cllr Le Gresley and described the ways in which Essex Highways were seeking to make organisational changes which would enable more efficient scheme delivery.

Potential Schemes

WP invited discussion of the top up to scheme LBAS002014 before addressing the rest of the Potential scheme list.

Andy Champ, WP and VP talked through the road safety and congestion benefits as well as the statutory duties that lay behind the desire to install the variable message sign in question.

Members queried why the location of the sign had been recorded incorrectly in previous reports.

WP apologised for this error and said that it had been commissioned before his time with the Panel and historically incorrectly recorded thereafter.

Members questioned why and how the sign had already been purchased if there were insufficient funds within the budget

WP explained that the shortfall in funds related to the installation of the sign (which necessitated costly safety fencing and traffic management) rather than the purchase of the sign, and that as a result we were left with the sign in storage and insufficient funds to install.

Members were unanimous in their decision that the top up should not be granted.

VP informed the Panel that Essex Highways would seek to find an alternative location and funding source for the sign, and therefore that much of the LHP's original budget allocation would not need to be carried over to 16/17.

LBAS002014 – CANCELLED

Road Safety Schemes

WP directed the Panel to the Road Safety section of the Potential Schemes report. The Panel approved funding for all road safety schemes as follows:

LBAS 161011 – Noak Hill Rd junction with Wash Rd - £35,000
APPROVED

LBAS 161001 – CR site 22 (A13 south west of Wharf Lane) - £9,000
APPROVED

LBAS 161002 – CR site 1 (Miles Gray Rd) - £8,000 APPROVED

LBAS 161003 – CR site 33 (Broadmayne junction with Great Oaks) -
£2,500 APPROVED

LBAS 161004 – CR site 29 (Darby Digger Roundabout) - £7,000
APPROVED

LBAS161005 – CR site 51 (Ballards Walk) - £14,500 APPROVED

LBAS 161006 – CR site 53 (London Rd, Vange Hill Drive) - £7,000
APPROVED

LBAS 161007 – CR site 67 (Hatterhill junction with Gower Chase) -
£7,000 APPROVED

LBAS 161008 – CR site 82 (Sparrows Herne) - £3,000 APPROVED

LBAS 161009 – Borough wide design of 17/18 safety schemes - £32,000 APPROVED

LBAS 161010 – A13 junction with A132 - £8,500 APPROVED

The Panel moved on to the “traffic management” section of the report where they agreed to approve schemes as follows:

LBAS 162018 – Stock Rd Billericay - £110,000 APPROVED

LBAS 162039 – Greens Farm Lane Billericay - £25,000 APPROVED

LBAS 162042 – Moss Drive junction with Moss Close - £15,000 APPROVED

LBAS 162049 – Footpath from Lingcroft to Sparrows Herne - £5,000 APPROVED

LBAS 162001 – A130 path leading to Rushbottom Lane - £1,500 APPROVED

LBAS 162058 – Mandeville Way/Florence Way - £2,000 APPROVED

LBAS 162063 – Borough Wide Salt bin funds (2 x salt bin) - £1,000 APPROVED

All other Traffic Management Schemes were deferred for consideration in future financial years or removed from the Potential Scheme List.

Public Rights of Way Schemes

The Panel decided that both potential PROW schemes (LBAS 168004 and LBAS 168005) should be deferred for consideration in future financial years.

“Walking” Schemes

The Panel approved funding for walking schemes as follows:

Scheme listed as LBAS 153014 (subsequently updated to LBAS 163014) – Kenilworth Close/London Rd/Mountnessing Rd - £11,500 APPROVED

Scheme listed as LBAS 153014 (subsequently updated to LBAS 163014) – 234-240 Great Knightleys - £3,000 APPROVED

Scheme listed as BLANK (subsequently updated to LBAS 163016) Meadow Rise - £5,000 APPROVED

All other walking schemes were deferred for consideration in future financial years or removed from the Potential Scheme List.

Passenger Transport Schemes

The Panel approved funding for Passenger Transport schemes as follows:

LBAS 165001 – Steeple Way - £7,000 APPROVED

LBAS 165002 – Greenway - £5,500 APPROVED

LBAS 165003 – Sugden Ave - £6,000 APPROVED

Revenue Schemes

The Panel allocated revenue funds as follows:

LBAS 162099 – Borough Wide Survey Funds - £10,000 APPROVED

<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Approved Scheme List</u></p> <p>WP sought guidance from the Panel on scheme LBAS152003 (Brightside, Billericay). The police had recommended the introduction of traffic calming measures (despite already low speeds on the road), and there had been mixed feedback with locals upon consultation, with the school seeking an extension of the proposed area affected by the 20mph restriction and residents of The Warren objecting to any restriction on their road. Cllr Hedley, Cllr Twitchen and the rest of the Panel decided that a 20mph speed limit should be introduced on Brightside only, without additional and more costly traffic calming measures which they deemed unnecessary in the circumstances.</p> <p>LBAS 152015 – SCHEME CANCELLED - The Panel decided to cancel scheme LBAS152015 (Church Road, Ramsden Bellhouse). This was based on the guidance that the measures might prove impossible to implement and that funds could be diverted to higher priority schemes on the Potential Scheme List.</p> <p>LBAS153001 – SCHEME CANCELLED – The Panel decided to cancel scheme LBAS 153001 (Pound Lane footpath, Basildon) so that funds could be diverted to higher priority schemes on the Potential Scheme List.</p> <p>Cllr Twitchen queried the location of the bus stops listed in Billericay and the work that had taken place. WP said he would email her details.</p> <p>Cllr Le Gresley commented on the content of the recently completed Elder Avenue Feasibility Study (LBAS152013). He urged that the required maintenance works outlined in the study be undertaken at the earliest possible time. WP advised that he would send a copy of the report to the maintenance engineers, but that Councillors would also be best to follow this up independently so that updates can be obtained from Member Enquiries.</p> <p>The Panel went on to discuss scheme LBAS 152028 (Eastgate Layby). The feasibility study relating to this location had been completed, but the Transport, Strategy and Engagement Team had said that the recommended layby alterations might clash with the Basildon Masterplan. The Panel were therefore given the option of cancelling the delivery of the improvements and integrating them at a later date as</p>	<p>WP</p>
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	<p>part of Basildon Masterplan works, or implementing the improvements within the LHP programme as planned on the understanding that they might soon be ripped up and amended. There was some discussion surrounding the topic, after which the Panel decided that improvements should be integrated within the Basildon Masterplan and removed from the LHP programme. LBAS 152028 – SCHEME CANCELLED.</p> <p>VP informed the Panel that they were £103,000 below their target budget allocation once cancelled schemes were accounted for.</p>	
8.	A.O.B.	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meetings</p> <p>Meeting dates to be circulated via email.</p>	