

CHELMSFORD CITY LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES

20 April 2023

at the Civic Centre, Chelmsford

Chairman:	Councillor Bob Massey
Panel Members:	<p>Chelmsford City Council – City Councillors Jennie Lardge, Stephanie Scott and Chris Shaw</p> <p>Essex County Council – County Councillors Marie Goldman, Ian Grundy, Mike Mackrory (Vice-Chairman), Anthony McQuiggan, Stephen Robinson, and Mike Steel</p> <p>Representing Parish Councils – Councillor Wendy Daden</p>
Officers:	<p>Jon Simmons and Dan McClean – Essex Highways Michael Adewole – Chelmsford City Council</p>
Secretariat:	Jan Decena - Chelmsford City Council

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors John Spence and Jude Deakin, from City Councillors Jeremy Lager and Chris Shaw.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 15th December 2022 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	

4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p><i>LCHE202018 – Valley Bridge</i> – road safety audit had been completed.</p> <p><i>LCHE182006 – Savernake Road</i> – the costs from statutory undertakers were received. Diversion cost for Vodaphone currently stood at £170,000.00, Cadent Gas was £342,000, Virgin Media was £307,500 and the estimated carriageway widening and footway scheme construction amounted to £70,000.00. This was against the allocated design budget of £13,000.00.</p> <p><i>LCHE172044 – Writtle – Verge Improvements</i> – the parish council decided after the consultation for the scheme not to continue.</p> <p><i>LCHE203005/LCHE203006 – Salt bins for Hillside Grove and Cherry Garden Lane</i> – both schemes to install salt bins on Hillside Grove and Cherry Garden Lane are currently in validation. It was found feasible to install a salt bin by Cherry Garden Lane but there could be issues with finding a suitable location regarding the salt bin for Hillside Grove.</p> <p><i>LCHE155026/LCHE175010/LCHE215001 – Bus shelters at various locations</i> – it was noted that the progression of bus shelters in Essex was on hold due to a countywide audit. Jon Simmons advised that the contracts are not in a position to take place. Cllr Lardge expressed that for her entire term, there had been no bus shelters put in place in Essex. The ECC officers advised that the agreement process was lengthy and that other factors such as COVID had delayed the process. The panel was reassured that the end was in sight.</p> <p>The panel was also informed about the progress of the red schemes and was informed that there were a couple of adjustments that needed to be made.</p> <p>(13:02 – 13:08)</p>	JS
5.	<p>Report on Funded Schemes 2022/23</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the schemes in the Funded Schemes Programme for 2022/23. The update detailed all the schemes which had been completed so far:</p> <p><i>LCHE192040 – A414 Danbury – Rout Based Strategy</i> – draft version of the strategy was going to be circulated soon. Cllr Goldman then queried why this was considered as completed on the funded scheme list provided. This was considered an error.</p>	JS

<p><i>LCHE182006 – Savernake Road</i> – the panel was updated regarding this scheme as above with updates of the costs from the statutory undertakers.</p> <p><i>LCHE154009 – Princes Road – Footway/Cycleway</i> – the panel was advised that due to the works outside the school, the scheme was to be reprogrammed during the school holidays. This was to carry over to 2023-24. The Panel were also advised that the scheme would require a top up and the Design Team were waiting on a target cost for the scheme.</p> <p><i>LCHE152104 – Well Lane to The Heights – Service Road, Danbury – One Way</i> – the design was being finalised and would be circulated to Cllr Spence.</p> <p><i>LCHE188001 – Footpath 76 Galleywood – Markland Close to Rignals Lane – Surfacing</i> – the scheme was to be delivered by Highway Maintenance and Operations team. This was to carry over to 2023-24.</p> <p><i>LCHE182009 – B1008 Ford End – Kerbing improvements</i> – the scheme had been passed to the Design Team and awaiting implementation.</p> <p><i>LCHE202010 – Bulimers Way, Ongar Road & Lordship Road, Writtle – 7.5T weight limit signing</i> – this scheme to carry forward into 2023-24.</p> <p><i>LCHE202036 – Littley Park Cottages, Littley Park Lane, Hartford End – Road markings</i> – bird nesting season delayed the vegetation removal and the implementation of the scheme. This was to carry forward to 2023-24.</p> <p><i>LCHE202038 – Maltese Road, Chelmsford – Traffic management improvements</i> – the panel was advised that there had been objections received regarding this scheme. It was advised that the residents were the ones who had objected. Jon Simmons advised that they were seeking Cabinet Member Action to allow the scheme to continue</p> <p><i>LCHE212005 – The Street and Back Lane, Little Waltham – Traffic management improvements</i> – design had been completed and there had been a few changes requested by the parish council. The scheme was to be implemented on 2023-24.</p> <p><i>LCHE212012 – A1245 Rettendon RAB, j/w Hawk Hill, Rettendon – Signing</i> – the scheme to slip into 2023-24 as permits would be needed from Network Rail and due to traffic management requirements. Cllr Grundy asked if permission would be needed. Jon</p>
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	<p>Simmons advised yes as Network Rail were quite protective of their lines.</p> <p><i>LCHE142002 – Main Road (at northern Broomfield Parish boundary), Broomfield – Gateway treatment – to be moved to Quarter 4 as the scheme needed to be changed to Design Only due to possible changed in parish boundary in March 2023.</i></p> <p><i>LCHE182053 – Millburn Crescent Chelmsford – Layby – the implementation of the scheme had been delayed by land acquisition from CCC.</i></p> <p><i>LCHE212034 – Little Waltham – Traffic review – the data from the ANPR survey completed in January 2023 was currently under review.</i></p> <p>AGREED that the Funded Schemes List be noted.</p> <p>(13:08 – 13:18)</p>	
6.	<p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The panel was updated regarding the schemes awaiting funding. They had been updated with the changes and overall status of the funding for the rest of the year. The panel was advised that, as agreed at the ECC Full Council on February 2023, the budget for the twelve Local Highways Panel on 2023/24 was to remain the same as 2022/23. It was also noted that in 2023/24 part of the LHP funding was to be set aside for carriageway improvements and that, as in 2022/23, the Casualty Reduction Sites The panel was then advised of the potential carry forward schemes from 2023/24, the footway improvements 2023/24, and the LHP funding for 2023/24.</p> <p>Cllr Lardge asked ECC officers how the footway and carriageway improvements lists are compiled. It was advised that there was a Highways inspection regime whereby defects were identified from routine inspection from Highways. The inspections were looking for those footways and carriageways that would benefit from additional works. Cllr McGuigan then asked if there would be a list soon regarding the footway schemes, footway minor works, and carriageway improvements to be undertaken in 2023/24. ECC officers advised that there would be a list and they would get back to him. Cllr Daden then asked regarding the quality of the material/equipment. It was advised that Essex was always looking at flexible and sustainable materials.</p> <p>Regarding funding, it was advised that CLHP schemes came from capital funding, which £176,875.00 would be allocated to carriageway improvements, £250,000 footway schemes and £250,000 footway minor works. Cllr Goldman expressed her</p>	<p>JS + DM</p>

	<p>frustration on what was perceived as a funding cut on the schemes and decisions were made from a presumedly undemocratic group. Cllr Steel intercepted that this was just a redirection of the monies and that the Panel would still be in control of the funding.</p> <p>(Cllr Scott entered the meeting at 13:35)</p> <p>Cllr Lardge queried what constituted as carriageway improvements. Dan Mclean advised that it would be some patching and resurfacing of small scale sections. Cllr Mackrory then asked for clarification surrounding the decision-making on the schemes' list in which Dan Mclean reiterated that this had been agreed on the February ECC Full Council in which it was agreed that there would be £4 million allocated for capital LHP projects. It was also advised that the scope had changed and the money had been redirected. Dan Mclean also advised that there would also be a Chairman's Panel where schemes outside of the Panels budget could be considered. There would be an additional budget within the Chairman's panel and CLHP would be able to bid for schemes. It was unknown how much this budget would be.</p> <p>The panel then discussed whether to allocate the schemes awaiting funding. Cllr Massey initially advised to review the commission schemes and allocate less than wait throughout the year. However, after further discussion that there would only be around £47,000.00 after the carry forward schemes for 2023/24, the panel AGREED to hold off allocating the schemes until the 15th June 2023 CLHP.</p> <p>Cllr Robinson expressed his concern regarding <i>LCHE224005</i>, junction improvements by Broomfield Road, which was still in validation despite being raised that there could be a danger to cyclists. Cllr Daden has also added that some of the cycle paths were placed in an opposite direction. Jon Simmons advised that this would be looked at in the June Panel meeting.</p> <p>AGREED that the Schemes Awaiting Funding List be noted.</p> <p>(13:18-13:50)</p>	
7.	<p>OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Cllr Daden raised a query regarding the point of advertising regarding the sponsorship of roundabouts. It was advised that roundabout sponsorship is a City Council matter – even highways roundabouts.</p> <p>Cllr Scott raised concerns from local residents regarding the RideLondon route going through Little Baddow and requested information regarding road closures and times. It was advised that</p>	

	<p>she should contact her County Councillor and consult the RideLondon website.</p> <p>Cllr Mackrory raised frustrations regarding installation of pedestrian walkway in which the costs kept on fluctuating from initially £800,000.00 to £1,000,00.00 with further costs needed to have a scheme drawn up. Jon Simmons would consult his colleagues regarding this matter.</p> <p>(13:50-13:56)</p>	<p>JS</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting date was AGREED to be on 15 June 2023.</p>	

The meeting closed at 13:56

Chair