

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023 - 10.00hrs

ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS

Chairman:	County Councillor Lewis Barber
Panel Members:	County Councillors: Mark Cory, David King. City Councillors: Jeremy Hagon, Richard Kirkby Taylor, Andrea Luxford-Vaughan, Tim Young Parish Councillor: Cllr Robert Johnstone
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 Councillors Simon Crow, John Gili-Ross, Sue Lissimore, Dave Harris, and Lee Scordis	
3.	Minutes of the meeting held on the 13 June 2023 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2023 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 that on p3 of the minutes it was noted that for Footpath 70, Myland – Surface Upgrade there was currently no design and that once the carry forward funding had been agreed then a design could be completed. A member of the panel was concerned on the timeframe of this and asked that the Highways Liaison Officer provide an update to the Leader of the Council (Cllr David King).</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer and the Highways Liaison Team Leader further detailed that on p4 of the minutes that Parish Council funding of Local Highway Panel schemes was being investigated and trial work was currently being undertaken in Maldon and that a new update on the online reporting system would be given to the panel once it was completed in time for the new financial year.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer detailed on that on p6 of the minutes it was noted that following a CMA for a zebra crossing in Fordham it would now be transferred to the safer road partnership and that a meeting would be happening between Cllr Scott and Cllr Barber.</p>	<p>JS</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 (Carry Forward Schemes) and confirmed that the funding for these should be agreed by the end of June. The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that the following schemes were being implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monkwick Cycleway Improvements, Maypole – Cycle Route – works completed. 2. Titania Close j/w Avon Way, Colchester- Dropped Kerbs – in progress. <p>A Member of the panel queried the Monkwick Cycleway Improvements and why three years on since the introduction of LTN1/20 why there was a shared cycleway being implemented. The Chair and Senior Highways Liaison Officer detailed that the proposal in Monkwick had been a footway widening proposal and that it was not possible to create a separate cycle lane as the space was not available and that the panel had concluded that it was better to have some improvement rather than none. A Member of the panel responded that proposals such as this would leave the Council with schemes that needed to be updated and would be building up problems for the future.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer and Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that officers were expecting a decision on the carry forward</p>	

	<p>funding after the 21 September 2023 and detailed that Cllr Scott had been working to look at the funds for the Local Highway Panel and that the schemes would be updated and brought onto the funded programme.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the proposed improvements at Clifton Terrace and the Highways Liaison Officer detailed that no funding had been allocated at this time. Councillor Cory updated the Panel that they had received a report regarding the costs but remained confident that these could be engineered down with the assistance of Greater Anglia. It was noted that the proposal could be around the £100,000 mark and detailed that they felt that this was too much money for the panel hence why alternative funding was being investigated. The Chair responded and conferred with Members of the panel that they would be happy to earmark the funds provided that more certainty could be provided. Councillor Cory also detailed that there was a request for two speed surveys and asked that the inflationary rise of these is taken into account.</p> <p>In response to a further question from the panel the Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that expected decision on funding that should be confirmed after the 21 September 2023 and from that the schemes from the panel that had been prioritised would be brought forward.</p> <p>Following a further concern raised regarding the state of inflation the Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that officers had been reviewing the schemes and confirmed that it was possible that materials would cost more but it was predicted that the schemes could be delivered within their allocated budget.</p> <p>Members discussed whether there would be a need for an extraordinary meeting of the Panel to look at the funding after it had been confirmed but before the meeting scheduled in December. The HLO advised that as the Panel had already prioritised additional schemes at the June meeting and the extraordinary meeting was not needed.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Report on schemes awaiting funding.</p> <p>The Panel considered a report that detailed the schemes that were awaiting funding and detailed that the Panel were not being asked to make funding allocations at this point and that once the funding had been confirmed then the Committee would be asked to look at these again in the December meeting.</p> <p>Members of the panel debated whether there was a more efficient way of ensuring smaller schemes were dealt with quicker to make an expedient change for the community they were in. The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that in previous years members of the Panel</p>	

	<p>had put forward two priorities and a reserve within their division and noted that although there were smaller schemes that could be put forward as a priority or could then be funded by the Panel once the priorities had been secured.</p>	
7.	<p>Revenue Funding and Traffic Survey Requests 2023/2024</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer presented the report to the Committee outlining that the speed surveys had now started as Automatic Traffic Counts did not take place during the school holidays.</p> <p>A panel Member asked that a correction be made that “Magnolia Way” be changed to “Magnolia Drive.”</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that the Panel had overspent on the revenue funding and that it had been detailed that the Panel did need to stick to its £5000 budget. However, it was noted that the Panel could look at these again closer to quarter 4 and use any underspend from other districts.</p>	
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that the new LHP dashboard was in progress and would allow for the logging and tracking of new schemes as well as allowing better management of these from an Officer and Member perspective. It was expected that this would become live for the next financial year and would create a live list of cases for members to review.</p> <p>The Chair asked that a presentation be provided to Panel Members on Low Traffic Networks (LTNs) ahead of the March meeting in 2024.</p>	DM
9.	<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <p>Via Video call:</p> <p>Tuesday 19 December 2023 Tuesday 19 March 2024</p>	