

CHELMSFORD CITY LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL MINUTES

16 SEPTEMBER 2021

at 13:00 via Remote Meeting

Chairman:	County Councillor Bob Massey
Panel Members:	<p>Chelmsford City Council – Councillors Jeremy Lager, Jennie Lardge and Chris Shaw</p> <p>Essex County Council – County Councillors Jude Deakin, Marie Goldman, Ian Grundy, Mike Mackrory, Anthony McQuiggan, Stephen Robinson, John Spence and Mike Steel</p> <p>Representing Parish Councils: Councillor W Daden</p>
Officers:	Michael Adewole - Chelmsford City Council, Jon Simmons and Sonia Church - Essex Highways
Secretariat:	Brian Mayfield - Chelmsford City Council

Item		Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present to the first meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from David Green, Chelmsford City Council.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 17 June 2021 were agreed as a correct record.</p>	

4.	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p><i>LCHE172031 – O/s 19-33 Shelley Road, Chelmsford</i> – The description of this scheme had been amended.</p> <p><i>LCHE154009, Princes Road Footway/Cycleway and LCHE163005, Penny Royal Road/Mayes Lane to Woodhill Road, Danbury, footway</i> – It was confirmed that the Princes Road scheme would be carried out in 2021-22. The other, whilst beginning in 2021-22, was likely to be completed in 2022-23.</p> <p><i>Bus Shelters</i> – In response to a question from Councillor Shaw, Jon Simmons said that no timescales were available for finalising the contract for the provision of bus shelters under the Essex Wide Bus Shelter project.</p> <p>Councillors Deakin and McQuiggan had been updated on the plans for the replacement of the bus shelters removed in Broomfield Road outside of the Keene Homes and petrol station.</p>	
5.	<p>Vehicle Activated Signs</p> <p>Sonia Church gave a presentation on the policy for the provision of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) and Speed Indicator Devices (SID), which had recently been refreshed.</p> <p>Under the revised policy, parish councils could buy and install their own signs if they applied for a licence to do so and certain criteria were met. In non-parished areas, the district council could provide them. Requests for signs could continue to be submitted through the Local Highways Panel where instances of significant breaches of speed limits were confirmed by surveys, but the new policy provided the flexibility for local areas to install signs where a need for them had been identified. The new policy also allowed for parishes or district councils to repair or replace signs that were in disrepair and due for removal if they wished.</p> <p>Sonia went on to explain the application process and said that, in Essex, there were currently 412 signs on the network in 169 parishes, with 31 signs in 10 parishes in Chelmsford. Mobile signs were becoming increasingly popular and offered the flexibility to be located quickly to areas where speeding had been identified as a problem.</p> <p>In response to questions, Sonia said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the policy was designed to give parishes greater say and flexibility in the provision of VAS or SID signs, it would 	

	<p>also help reduce the financial burden on LHP's revenue budget. She did not accept the view that through the policy the County Council was avoiding its responsibilities for providing such signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mobile signs were easy to move and a list of approved contractors, was available for the supply and installation of fixed and mobile signs • Essex Highways had regard to national guidance when considering whether the criteria for the provision of speed warning signs were met. Whilst the County Council was responsible for the safety of roads, individual cases of breach of speed limits were a criminal matter for the police • Under the new policy parish and district councils would be responsible for all matters relating to the installation of their own signs, including utility searches • When applying for a licence for a mobile sign that could be moved to several locations, one application listing all the intended locations would be sufficient. If additional locations were proposed, a further application would be required. <p>Sonia was thanked for her presentation.</p>	
6.	<p>Funded Schemes 2021/22</p> <p>The Panel received an update on the schemes in the Funded Schemes Programme for 2021/22. The total cost of the current year's programme, including Safer Roads and Commissioned Schemes, was £784,300, to be funded from a budget of £700,000.</p> <p>In relation to specific schemes:</p> <p><i>LCHE192039 – O/s Tyrrells School, Tavistock Road</i> – The implementation of this scheme had been delayed until October. Councillor Mackrory would be advised of the exact date.</p> <p><i>LCHE182032 – Thames Avenue, Chelmsford and LCHE182031 – Cherwell Drive, Chelmsford</i> – The designs for these schemes would be sent to Councillor Robinson.</p> <p>AGREED that the update on Funded Schemes for 2021/22 be noted.</p>	<p>JS</p> <p>JS</p>
7.	<p>Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Panel received details of the latest version of the list of Schemes Awaiting Funding, which contained schemes with a total estimated cost of £2,059,860.</p>	

	<p>As in previous years it was suggested that a sub-group be appointed to produce a priority list for 2022-23 from the schemes awaiting funding. It was accepted that those schemes that improved safety should receive priority within that list.</p> <p>One scheme that it was felt should be agreed at this stage was <i>LCHE211008 – Warners Farm RAB, Essex Regiment Way, Great Waltham</i> – which, as a Safer Roads scheme, was considered a priority and should be added to the Funded Schemes list.</p> <p>The Panel discussed the general issue of the cost of schemes and concerns that they appeared, in some cases, to be high for no apparent reason. The basis for costing schemes was explained to the Panel but members felt that it would be helpful, if possible, to have a breakdown of the cost of a scheme when it was brought to the Panel. It would also be desirable to have a rough initial estimate of the cost when a scheme first came forward. Jon Simmons was asked to send to members the link to the LHP Members Guide Appendix 1 Costs & Timescales.</p> <p>AGREED that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a sub-group comprising Councillors Daden, Deakin, Mackrory, Massey, McQuiggan and Steel be appointed to agree and report to the December meeting a list of priority schemes from those schemes awaiting funding; 2. scheme <i>LCHE211008 – Warners Farm RAB, Essex Regiment Way, Great Waltham</i> be added to the Funded Schemes list. 	SC/JS
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>	
8.	<p>Dates of Next Meetings</p> <p>16 December 2021 and 17 March 2022 at 1300.</p>	

The meeting closed at 14:12

Chairman