

COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2025 - 10.00

ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS

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| Chair: | County Councillor Sue Lissimore |
| Panel Members: | County Councillors: Simon Crow, Mark Cory City Councillors: Elizabeth Alake-Akinyemi, Jeremy Hagon Parish Councillor: Sue Allen Shepherd |
| Officers: | Essex Highways: Jon Simmons – Highways Liaison Officer Daniel MacLean – Highways Liaison Team Leader Jane Thompson, Colchester City Council Transport and Sustainability Joint Lead |
| Secretariat: | Colchester City Council: Richard Clifford – Democratic Services Manager. |

| Item | | Owner |
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| 1. | Welcome and Introductions: The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting including the newly appointed member, Cllr Elizabeth Alake-Akinyemi. | |
| 2. | Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Çufoglu, Harris, King, Luxford Vaughan, Scordis and Barber. | |
| 3. | Minutes of the meeting held on the 17 December 2024 The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2024 were confirmed as a correct record. | |

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| 4. | Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting None | |
| 5. | Report on Funded Schemes 2024-25 The Panel considered a report which provided an update on the final position of all the schemes which the Panel recommended for inclusion in its 2024/25 programme. The Highways Liaison Team Leader explained that the Local Highway Panel service had been on hold since March 2025 whilst a review by Cabinet was undertaken. Whilst the service was now resuming, it would not process any new schemes and would only look at those schemes which had already been validated and designed. The Cabinet member for Highways was looking at how to fund new schemes which were safety related. The Panel had a budget of £750,000 to fund a two year rolling programme and the Panel was invited to review and prioritise the list of schemes. It was also explained that the Chair's Panel would not be in operation this year and those schemes which had been referred to it were now back for consideration by the Local Highway Panel. In discussion, the Panel sought clarification about what would happen to those schemes on which some work had been done but had not been validated. It was explained that the work done to date would be kept on file and could be used in future if circumstances changed and they could move towards validation. Further clarification on the new processes was awaited from the Cabinet member for Highways, and it was understood that a flow chart clarifying the new processes would soon be available. The Highways Liaison Officer explained the position on those schemes which were not completed. In discussion, some concern was expressed about the cancellation of the Clifton Terce, Wivenhoe scheme, which had been due to be funded through the Chair's Panel. It was suggested that this scheme be retained whilst further options about the use of a ramp were explored. The Highways Liaison Team Leader explained that the scheme no longer fell within the remit of the Panel as the necessary works were outside the adopted highway. The Chair suggested that Councillor Cory seek a meeting with the Cabinet member for Highways, herself and officers to discuss how the scheme could be taken forward. | Cllr Cory |

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| | <p>RESOLVED that the following uncompleted schemes, totalling £22,520, continue to be funded through the Local Highway Panel -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hythe Quay, Colchester, Pedestrian Crossing • Chapel Corner B1508 Main Road Wormingford - Bus Stop Improvements • Avon Way near junction with Magnolia, Colchester – Crossing Point • Footpath 5 off Tollgate Road, Stanway, Public Right of Way access improvements | |
| 6. | <p>Report on Schemes Awaiting Funding</p> <p>The Panel considered a report setting out the schemes awaiting funding and the Panel were invited to prioritise the schemes, to enable a programme of works to be drawn up. The Highways Liaison Officer explained that the schemes had been divided into two distinct reports -</p> <p>Report 2A: this detailed schemes that had completed the design phase and were ready for implementation this year and did not require land acquisition or Traffic Regulation Orders.</p> <p>Report 2B: All other schemes currently awaiting funding.</p> <p>The Panel considered the schemes in report 2A first, as these were the priority schemes. The Highways Liaison Officer reported that he been contacted by Councillor Barber who had indicated that he did not consider scheme LCOL175003 Stratford Road Dedham to be a priority and there were other schemes he would prefer to see prioritised. Similarly, it was reported Councillor Harris had indicated that he did not see scheme designed under LCOL202040 at Mersea Road junction with Stansted Road as a priority</p> <p>The Chair expressed some concern about the budget for scheme LCOL202043 Norman Way, Colchester, given that there were no safety issues associated with the site. The primary issue was the narrowness of the slip road which led to minor collisions, but there was no record of any injuries. It was suggested that alternative measures, such as grass crete to extend the parking or improved signage could be explored as an alternative.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that all the schemes identified in report 2A should be funded through the Local Highway Panel, with the exception of the following, which should be added to the Schemes Awaiting Funding list:-</p> <p>LCOL175003 Stratford Road Dedham LCOL202040 Mersea Road junction with Stansted Road</p> | |

| LCOL202043 Norman Way, Colchester The Panel were advised that this left a budget of £478 380 to fund schemes from the Schemes Awaiting Funding List. The Panel considered that it should allocate each of the schemes in the Schemes Awaiting Funding list that were ready for implementation a priority rating of 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest priority. The list would then be circulated to the whole Panel , seeking comments before being finally agreed. | | |
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| Scheme | Priority Rating | Any comment |
| Traffic Management | | |
| Hakewill Way, Colchester - Bollards | 5 | The Chair thought that there may have been a decision taken that Local Highway Panels would not consider schemes relating to bollards, but the Senior Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that other Panels had funded bollard schemes. |
| Dedham Parish – traffic management improvements | 2 | Dedham Parish Council should be invited to contribute. |
| Little Horkesley – Pedestrian warning signs | 1 | |
| 1.Ponders Road, 2. Fossett's Lane 3. Rams Farm Road 4. Fossett's Lane Fordham – Quiet Lanes | 1 | |
| School Lane, Great Horkesley – Quiet Lane | 1 | |
| London Road/Coach Road, Great Horkesley – Warning Signs | 1 | |
| Scarletts Road j/w Belmont Place, Colchester – Road Marking | 2 | |

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| | East Mersea Road, East Mersea – Signage | 2 | |
| | B1508 Sandy Hill, Wormingford – Layby Removal | 5 | |
| | Swan Street – Gateway Improvements | 5 | |
| | St Johns Road j/w A137 Colchester – Signage Improvements | 3 | |
| | Clay Lane Grove TRO/Parking Restrictions | 2 | Highways Liaison Officer to check scheme falls within the Panel's remit. |
| | Plume Avenue – 20s Plenty | 1 | |
| | New Church Road – Parking Sign changes | 2 | |
| | Church Road – Traffic Management Improvements | 3 | |
| | Baden Powell Drive – Signs | 2 | |
| | Whitehall Road – KEEP CLEAR | 3 | |
| | Orpen's Hill- Gateway | 5 | The Panel noted that part of the scheme was for cutting back vegetation, which was an issue for the contractor to address. |
| | Rectory Road VAS/Traffic Management improvement | - | The Parish Council should be encouraged to apply for funding for a VAS. |
| | Argents Lane – Water Depth Markers | - | Senior Highways Liaison Officer was asked to check the estimated cost of the scheme with seemed high for the work required. |

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| Mersea Road – Bend Sign Lanes | 2 | |
| Bridge 1413, Newbridge Hill, West Bergholt TRO Review | 2 | |
| Walking Schemes | | |
| Boxted Primary School – Traffic Management Improvements | 2 | |
| Stansted Road j/w Queen Elizabeth Way, Colchester – Dropped Kerbs | 3 | It was suggested that the views of the ward councillor should be sought. |
| Warren Lane near Joe Firmin Close, Stanway – Warning Signs | 4 | |
| Church Lane, Colchester – Pedestrian Crossing Improvements | 1 | |
| Wren Close to Warren Lane, Stanway – Barriers | 4 | It was suggested that the views of the ward councillor should be sought. |
| Harrison Road - Dropped Kerb/tactile pavement | 3 | |
| Upland Drive – pedestrian guard railing | 1 | |
| Chapel Road, Great Tey, Footway | | The Panel considered there was insufficient information on these schemes, given the funding required. Further more detailed reports would be submitted to the Panel in due course, including accident statistics. |
| Maldon Road, Tiptree – new footway | | |
| Hythe quay – Pedestrian crossing improvements | | |
| Cycling Schemes | | |
| Spring Lane roundabout – Traffic | 5 | |

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| | management improvements | | | Cllr Lissimore |
| | Cowdray Avenue, Colchester – Cycle route improvements | 2 | | |
| | Monkwick Footway/Cycleway Phase 2/3 | - | It was agreed that the scheme should be put on hold. It was suggested by a member of the Panel that a better scheme was required. | |
| Passenger Transport | | | | |
| | Blue Row, East Mersea Road, West Mersea – Infrastructure Upgrade | 5 | | |
| | The Walk , Spring Lane, Eight Ash Green – Infrastructure Upgrade | 5 | | |
| | A134 Nayland Road, j/w London Road, Great Horkesley – Bus Stop Improvements | 5 | | |
| | A1124 Colchester Road – Bus Stops | 5 | | |
| | Stratford Road, Dedham – TRO revision | 5 | | |
| Public Rights of Way | | | | |
| | Cambridge Road, Footpath 198 – Surface Improvements | | Hold whilst alternative solutions to address the uneven footpath surface were looked at. | |
| | Bridleway 25 – Cross Lane, West Mersea - Signage | 2 | | |
| The Panel sought further clarity on what would happen to those schemes not at the implementation stage. The Chair agreed to write to Cabinet member for Highways to seek clarity on this to ensure the schemes were not lost. Clarification was also sought on what would | | | | |

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| | <p>happen if members were contacted with petitions about old schemes that had previously been reused funding. The Highways Liaison Officer explained that they would be referred to the petitions team but would not necessarily be reopened.</p> <p>The Panel noted the list of schemes that did not meet the criteria. It was highlighted that in respect of the Chitts Hill scheme, that Holmwood House School was incorrectly described as a boarding school in the description of the scheme. A Panel member expressed surprise that the Peace Road scheme feasibility study did not recommend a 20mph speed limit. This was supported by residents and both City Council and County Council members. The Highways Liaison Officer undertook to share the Feasibility Study with the relevant member.</p> <p><i>RESOLVED that -</i></p> <p>(a) all the schemes identified in report 2A should be funded through the Local Highway Panel, with the exception of the following, which should be added to the Schemes Awaiting Funding list -</p> <p>LCOL175003 Stratford Road Dedham LCOL202040 Mersea Road junction with Stansted Road LCOL202043 Norman Way, Colchester</p> <p>(b) the prioritised list of Schemes Awaiting Funding be circulated to the whole Panel, in order for members to make any representations, before the list of prioritised schemes was agreed.</p> | <p>Highways Liaison Officer</p> <p>Highways Liaison Officer</p> |
| <p>9.</p> | <p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p>Via Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 16 September 2025 – 10:00 - 16 December 2025 – 10.00 - 17 March 2026 – 10:00 | |