
HIGHWAYS LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2005

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is the third quarterly update report to Rochford Members since the commencement of the Highways Local Service Agreement (Highways LSA) working arrangements on 1 April 2005. It reports on highway authority activities and Highways LSA progress for the period from October to December 2005, as required in the Agreement.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Highways Local Service Agreement was introduced following the termination of the District / Borough Highway Agency Agreements as of 1 April 2005. It outlines the way the County Council and the District / Borough Councils should work and cooperate with each other to deliver the common goal of providing services to the public.
- 2.2 As Rochford was never an Agency District, very little has changed with respect to the working arrangements between the County Council and the District Council.
- 2.3 This report briefly explains what the Highways LSA is and goes on to highlight some of the work which has been undertaken this quarter with regard to our working together.

3 BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE HIGHWAYS LSA

- 3.1 The Highways LSA is the basis for improved service delivery and partnership working across the two tiers of local government. Although the Highways LSA in Rochford is yet to be formally signed, we are continuing to work closely with each other and in the spirit of the LSA.
- 3.2 The Highways LSA has given the chance to all District and Borough Councils to adopt 'Local Customised Arrangements'.
- 3.3 Rochford has chosen to:-
- continue undertaking the role of verge grass cutting with County Council contribution.
- 3.4 Other arrangements are:-
- to arrange the landscaping sponsorship and works on roundabouts and verges in liaison with the County Council and;

- The County Council to provide Rochford District Council with access to the CONFIRM reporting system, when available.

4 ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL AND ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION AN PARTNERSHIP WORKING

4.1 Communication continues to be good between Rochford Members, Rochford officers and County officers to deliver the common goal of service to the public. An open invitation is made to all Rochford Members to visit the County Highways Rochford team now located in Basildon where they will always receive a warm welcome.

4.2 Below are some of the many good examples of this good working relationship this quarter:-

- Site meetings with County and District officers;
- Attendance by County and District officers at the Traffic Liaison meeting and the Quarterly Liaison meeting held at the South Area Office;
- Monthly management team meetings between the County Council and the District Council to discuss numerous common issues and passing of information;
- Delivery of the newly sponsored and planted Cherry Orchard Way roundabout;
- Joint working with Rochford District officers and representatives from Essex & Suffolk Water on the Rochford Mains Rehabilitation Programme.
- Regular liaison with Rochford District Council Parking Enforcement Department on issues such as residents parking, signs, lines, Traffic Regulation Orders and reporting of traffic problems;
- Weekly visits by the County Development Control Officer to Rochford District Council offices to review current planning applications with informal advice given by the County Council.

5 REPORTS AND DECISIONS PUT TO ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

5.1 Other than the second Quarterly LSA report submitted to the Environmental Services Committee on 11 October 2005, there have been no other reports submitted to Rochford District Council in the period from October to December 2005 by the County Highways Department.

6 UPDATE OF THE LOCALLY DETERMINED BUDGET (LDB) PROGRAMME 2005/06

6.1 Since RDC approval to the LDB programme on 7 July 2005, we have been working at implementing schemes on the ground. Below are the schemes listed with a brief update of progress to date and the allocated funds from the overall £85k budget.

- **Anne Boleyn Residential Zone** - Brainstorming session held end of September—.£0k allocated this year. Unlikely to receive any LTP2 funding.
- **Southend Road / Great Eastern Road zebra crossing** – this scheme has replaced the Folly Lane/Aldermans Hill Junction scheme due to no construction activity (dedication of land) at Folly Lane. - £15k
- **Lambourne Hall Road Footway** – Compulsory purchase negotiations underway - £0k allocated.
- **Coventry Hill Footway** – Work is complete - £20k
- **Pram Crossings** – all complete for 05/06 - £5k
- **Minor Items** – numerous small works have been funded from this budget - £10k. £3870 committed, £4950 reserved. £1180 remaining.
- **Kill Your Speed Signs** – Scheme underway in district - £5k
- **Vehicle Message Signs** – Investigating alternative signs for 2006 onwards - £2k
- **Down Hall Road Zebra Crossing** – Completed early October 2005 in association with major footway and carriageway scheme - £15k
- **Street Lighting Plumberow Station Entrance** – light installed December 05 - £1k
- **Street Lighting Survey B1013** – Survey conducted – £0.5k. Currently sourcing funds for lighting upgrade.
- **Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)** – £11.5k
- **School Keep Clears** – Schools in all parishes have been out to informal consultation. C.O.A. forms and copies of tiles with Legal Services, awaiting draft statements of reasons and notices for checking. Public consultation to follow.
- **Brooklyn Drive, Rayleigh** - Advertised informally, C.O.A. forms and copies of tiles with Legal Services, awaiting draft statement of reasons and notices for checking. Public consultation to follow.

- **Graham Close, Hockley** - Residents consulted 100% support, informal consultation out – C.O.A. forms and copies of tiles with Legal Services, awaiting draft statement of reasons and notices for checking. Public consultation to follow.
- **Ferry Road, Hullbridge** - Advertised informally – C.O.A. form and copies of tiles with Legal Services, awaiting draft statement of reasons and notices for checking. Public consultation to follow.
- **Mucking Hall Road, Barling** - Site inspection carried out, did not meet criteria for a 30mph speed restriction. **Cancelled**
- **Chaseside, Rayleigh** - Advertised informally, comments received and extents of proposal reduced – C.O.A. form and copies of tiles with Legal Services, awaiting draft statement of reasons and notices for checking. Public consultation for shortened length of double yellows to follow.

7 UPDATE OF THE ECC MAINTENANCE INITIATIVE IN ROCHFORD DISTRICT

7.1 Good progress has been made on the delivery of the Maintenance Initiative schemes in the Rochford District. Below is a summary of scheme progress to date. We are currently in the process of identifying schemes for the 2006/07 programme based on the Highway Condition Survey. Once a list has been determined, we shall seek to obtain the approval of Rochford Members.

Maintenance Initiative Schemes 2005/06		
Road Name	Location description	Comments
A129 High Road, Rayleigh	Brook Road to Paul Pry Public House	Kerbs and carriageway complete. Some footway work still outstanding.
Ashingdon Road, Rochford	Meesons Mead to Oxford Road	Complete.
Hambro Hill, Rayleigh	Down Hall Road to Hockley Road	Carriageway complete, although additional footway work underway.
Hockley Road, Rayleigh	Victoria Road to Hambro Hill	Complete.
Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh	Lower Road to Mentefiori Avenue	Complete.
Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh	Roach Avenue to A127	Complete.
Rectory Road,	Ironwell Lane to Windsor	Complete

Hawkwell	Gardens	
Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Woodview Kennels to Ashingdon School	Complete.
Canewdon Road, Canewdon	Whitehouse Farm to Scotts Hall Road	Complete.
Shopland Road, Barling	Shopland Hall Road to Beauchamps Cottages	Complete
Little Wakering Road, Great Wakering	Whole Length	Carriageway and kerbs complete. Some further footway work outstanding.
Shoebury Road, Great Wakering	Common Road j/w Conway Avenue	Complete.
Beeches Road, Rawreth	Old Chelmsford Road to Beeches Cottages	Complete.
Beeches Road, Rawreth	AWS works to Highlands Road	Complete.
Church Road, Canewdon	Whole length	Complete.
Clarence Road, Rayleigh	Whole length	Complete.
A129 High Street, Rayleigh	Bus stop remedials	Full reconstruction programmed for February 06
Helena Road, Rayleigh	Louise Road to Victoria Road and Nelson Road junction	Complete except for decision on replacement of speed cushions - subject to surveys.
Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh	Roach Avenue to Eastwood Road	Kerb work complete. Carriageway programmed for early February 06 Footway work to follow.
Beeches Road, Rawreth	Bends near river	Complete.
Ashingdon Road, Ashingdon	Bottom of hill to school and Lower Canewdon junction	Kerb work complete. Carriageway surfacing programmed for end of February 06.
Windsor Way, Rayleigh		Complete

Pre-patching for 06/07 sites	District Wide	Underway.
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8 UPDATE OF OTHER SIGNIFICANT SCHEMES IN ROCHFORD DISTRICT

8.1 Planned Parish Visits

Budgets have enabled this valuable project to continue in 2005/06. The majority of works are now complete.

8.2 Additional Drainage Schemes

Additional funds have been allocated to address the backlog of drainage problems in the district. A programme of these works was forwarded to Rochford Members following the previous LSA report.

8.3 Footway Schemes

A budget of £414k has been allocated for the specific footway schemes of Down Hall Road, Grove Road and Plumberow Avenue. All three schemes are underway to be completed by the end of March 2006.

8.4 Spa Road Bus Lay-By

A scheme will shortly commence to remedy the problem of buses waiting at the bus stop in Spa Road, Hockley and restricting the passing traffic flow. It will consist of a half width bus bay enabling buses to wait whilst also allowing two way passing vehicular flow. Discussions are underway with BT in order to lower their fibre optic cables which run beneath the scheme. Once agreed, the scheme can commence immediately.

8.5 A130 Post Bypass Measures

On 4 November 2005, Cllr Bass agreed to the southern section schemes of the A130 Post Bypass Measures for completion by the end of March 2006. Since then, we have been busy in getting the works underway.

The agreed schemes are split between Rochford, Basildon and Chelmsford Districts/ Borough and are shown below. The Rochford managed schemes are in bold type:-

- **A129 Lay-by/Bus Stop facility near Hodgson Way Roundabout, Shotgate**
- **Planting of hedging on A129 Southend Road - near Doublegate Lane, Wickford**
- **Cycleway and bridleway parallel to A129 - from Old London Road to planings storage area (behind noise fence)**

- **A1245 N/S and E/W Cycleway, Bridleway and Footway links / improvements - between Carpenter Arms and Chelmsford Road leading to Battlesbridge**
- **Beeches Road/Old Chelmsford Road junction and footway improvement**
- A129 Southend Road Street Lighting and 30mph speed limit - east of Hodgson Way Roundabout, Shotgate/Wickford
- Removal of A132 Rettendon Turnpike signals
- Swan Lane, Wickford speed reduction measures

9 UPDATE OF THE ECC PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW) 5 YEAR ROLLING MAINTENANCE PLAN

9.1 As reported in a Members' Bulletin in early June, Rochford was chosen, along with Basildon and Castle Point, to pilot the County Council PROW 5 year rolling programme. The programme aims to survey and log the assets of the entire PROW network over 5 years, equating to 20% of the network being surveyed each year. The idea is to assess each 20% against set criteria and improve the network to a higher standard. Once the asset is known, we can identify what is required and place financial bids for larger improvement works.

9.2 This year, 56 kilometres of PROW in the Parishes of Barling, Rawreth and Sutton were surveyed comprising 51.5 kilometres of footpath and 4.6 kilometres of bridleway. The table below shows the percentage pass for each of the set criteria measured:-

Criteria	Percentage Pass			
	Barling	Rawreth	Sutton	Overall
Signposts ? where path leaves road	60%	61%	86%	66%
Waymarking ? elsewhere along path	8%	14%	7%	10%
Bridges	96%	86%	93%	91%
Stiles/Gates/Barriers	68%	89%	71%	78%
Obstructions ? at point, eg, fallen tree linear, eg,	80%	54%	64%	66%

encroaching hedge				
Ploughing/Cropping ? cross field & field edge paths ploughed or crops not cleared	80%	64%	71%	72%
Surface Condition ? surface muddy, uneven or overgrown (excluding ploughing)	56%	64%	64%	61%
Overall	0%	4%	7%	3%

9.3 With the emphasis on signposts and waymarking, works are currently being carried out in the 3 Parishes which once complete it is estimated that there will be improvements of between 25 and 29% to the overall pass rates for each Parish. However, with further planned works and liaison with landowners, in respect of the items they are responsible for, a far greater improvement will be possible. Estimates of these improvements should be available by the end of this financial year.

10 CONTRACT 2006

10.1 The new suite of contracts has recently been awarded to deliver the highway service from April 2006. These will replace the current contracts with Alfred McAlpine in the South Area and May Gurney in the North.

10.2 The contracts will be run under the New Engineering Contract (NEC) second edition with an itemised Bill of Quantities. This essentially means that every individual task has a specific cost determined in advance of the works thus creating greater certainty of final scheme costs. It does return the working relationship between the County Council and the Contractor to a more traditional arrangement rather than the current 'Partnership' working. It will mean the bringing back in house of more roles and greater scheme control. There is a great learning curve required for all existing staff who will be undertaking roles that have previously been undertaken by others.

10.3 The successful Contractors and their respective Contracts are as follows:

May Gurney	Maintenance Works South
Raynesway Construction Services (RCS)	Maintenance Works North
TE Beech	Improvements Works
T Cartledge	Street Lighting
May Gurney	Surface Dressing

Bagnall & Morris	Gully Emptying
Electrical Testing Ltd	Electrical Testing
To Be Determined	Structures

11 RECOMMENDATION

11.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the Highways Local Service Agreement Update Report: October – December 2005 be noted.

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Background Papers:-

None

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