Executive Report
Report of Head of Environment
Author: Tim Pilsbury
Tel: 01483 444521
Email: tim.pilsbury@guildford.gov.uk
Lead Councillor responsible: Matt Furniss and James Palmer
Tel: 07891 022206 (MF) 07919 362404 (JP)
Email: matt.furniss@guildford.gov.uk / james.palmer@guildford.gov.uk
Date: 22 July 2014

Guildford High Street setts and litter bins

Executive Summary

Guildford High Street’s granite sett pavement, laid in 1864, is an iconic part of the identity of Guildford. It is within the Conservation area of the town and the road is lined with listed buildings, including four of Grade I quality, many grade II* and grade II and a Scheduled Monument.

The surface of the High Street has deteriorated over the years. Numerous utility companies have taken up areas of the setts to repair services so there are now many areas of repairs of varying standards. It is the view of Surrey County Council officers and officers of this Council that individual repairs to the road surface are no longer appropriate and that the whole of the road surface should now be re-laid in phases. In addition, there are approximately 76 litter bins of varying design and condition in the town centre that are reaching the end of their serviceable life and need replacing.

This report requests that funding from three schemes on the provisional capital programme is approved for contributing towards Surrey County Council’s scheme to re-lay the road surface.

Recommendation to Executive

(1) That the following schemes be transferred from the provisional capital programme to the approved capital programme:

- Recycling bring bank replacement (£65,000)
- Guildford High Street footway replacement (£104,000)
- Guildford High Street improvements (£200,000)

(2) That the Council contributes a sum of £304,000 to Surrey County Council (SCC) to re-lay the High Street setts subject to SCC confirmation that the balance of the total cost of the scheme will be met by SCC or another confirmed source.

(3) That a sum of £65,000 be used to replace the town centre’s litter bins with dual
litter and recycling bins.

(4) That the Executive Head of Environment, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Environment, be authorised to explore advertising on litter bins and to work with the specialist company working on the commercial services project to oversee its introduction using part of the £65,000 referred to in recommendation (3) above.

Reasons for Recommendation:
To improve the appearance of the High Street’s iconic setted roadway and to replace the town’s deteriorating litter bins.

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 This report asks the Executive to approve the transfer of the following three schemes from the provisional capital programme to the approved capital programme:

- Recycling bring bank replacement (£65,000)
- Guildford High Street footway replacement (£104,000)
- Guildford High Street improvements (£200,000)

1.2 This report also asks the Executive to agree that the £65,000 for recycling bring bank replacement is used to provide new dual recycling/litter bins to replace the existing litter bins around the town centre and other locations if appropriate and that the £304,000 for the other two schemes is contributed to Surrey County Council (SCC) to part fund the County Council’s scheme to re-lay the High Street setts subject to SCC confirmation that the balance of the total cost of the scheme will be met by SCC or another confirmed source.

2. **Strategic Framework**

2.1 The replacement of the litterbins and re-laying the High Street setts falls within the themes of ‘Infrastructure’ and ‘Economy’. The funding requested in this report would show this Council’s commitment to improving the overall appearance of the town centre and to partnership working with SCC.

3. **Background**

*Setts*

3.1 Guildford High Street’s granite sett pavement, laid in 1864, is an iconic part of the identity of Guildford. It is within the Conservation area of the town and the road is lined with listed buildings, including four of Grade I quality, many grade II* and grade II and a Scheduled Monument.

3.2 The surface of the High Street has deteriorated over the years. Numerous utility companies have taken up areas of the setts to repair services so there are now many areas of repairs of varying standards.
3.3 The High Street is an adopted highway and therefore the responsibility of the highway authority, SCC.

3.4 In previous years, both SCC and this Council have funded repairs to failed areas of the setts. In places, this has either meant repointing the setts, relaying them, or a complete reconstruction of the road foundation.

3.5 There are still areas that have failed foundation noticeable by depressions in the surface. The High Street is wide and has a mild camber and it is the opinion of SCC and this Council’s engineers that individual repairs are no longer viable and that a programme of restoring the entire road should be adopted. Future repairs should span the entire width of the road for at least a 10m length to ensure that the original profile of the road is restored. This was endorsed by the Guildford Local Committee (GLC) at their 19 June 2013 meeting.

3.6 SCC’s preliminary cost estimate for relaying the setts is £1m., with the setts being laid in sections over a four-year period; an annual investment of £250,000. This cost could vary depending on things such as how many of the existing setts can be successfully reclaimed and the condition of the road foundation. SCC is trying to identify funding streams which could be from SCC maintenance budgets, developer funding and private contributions. The GLC has agreed to increase funding for this project from the Local Committee Highways Capital budget 2014/15 to £150,000 and committed to provide a third of the contribution toward the total cost for any scheme from future budgets.

**Issues**

3.7 There are a number of main services within the High Street. SCC officers are liaising with the various utility companies to ensure that any repairs or replacements are carried out in advance of work to the setts.

**Litterbins**

3.8 There are approximately 76 litter bins of varying design and condition in the town centre that are reaching the end of their serviceable life. It is proposed to replace all of the existing litter bins with new dual litter and mixed recycling bins. The bins will also have cigarette disposal facilities. The mixed recycling will have a positive effect on recycling rates.

3.9 There is an opportunity to have advertising panels incorporated on the bins. As part of the commercial services project, officers are reviewing advertising on all Council assets using a specialist company. This company will be able to provide an estimate of potential revenue from advertising, although that work has not taken place yet. The Executive is asked to agree that the Executive Head of Environment, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Environment, explores advertising on litter bins and works with the specialist company working on the commercial services project to oversee its introduction. The advertising could also allow the Council to promote its own services and initiatives.
4. **Financial Implications**

4.1 There are three schemes in the provisional capital programme that the Executive is asked to transfer to the approved capital programme:

*Recycling bring bank replacement (£65,000)*

4.2 This scheme is no longer required as the bring banks were replaced as part of Recycling More. The Executive is asked to approve that the £65,000 is spent on replacing the litter bins in the town centre and other areas if appropriate and the provision of advertising. Each dual litter/recycling bin costs around £500 plus approximately £150 for installation. Replacing the 76 litter bins will be therefore cost £49,400. The Executive is asked to approve that the remaining £15,600 is spent on the provision of advertising on the town centre bins and for the provision of litter bins in other areas of the borough if appropriate.

*Guildford High Street footway replacement (£104,000) and Guildford High Street improvements (£200,000)*

4.3 These schemes were to upgrade the High Street footways and to provide funding for further repairs to the High Street setts. Both schemes included part funding for replacing litter bins. SCC is now replacing areas of the footway with York Stone so officers consider that this funding would now be better used to part fund the sett replacement.

5. **Legal Implications**

5.1 Guildford High Street is an adopted highway and therefore the responsibility of SCC. Guildford Borough Council is not therefore legally obliged to contribute towards the SCC scheme but as set out in this report a contribution does fit in with our strategic framework.

6. **Human Resource Implications**

6.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report other than officer time spent in liaising with SCC officers.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1 Various repairs to the High Street setts have left patches of varying standards and it is the conclusion of Surrey County Council officers and councillors and officers of this Council that the High Street setts should now be re-laid entirely. The funding identified will be a significant contribution towards this.

7.2 The replacement of litter bins will help improve the general appearance of the town centre.

8. **Background Papers**

Report of Surrey County Council’s Area Highway Manager South West to the Guildford Local Committee, 19 June 2013.