

**COLCHESTER LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2024 - 10.00**  
**ONLINE MEETING: MICROSOFT TEAMS**

<b>Chairman:</b>	County Councillor Sue Lissimore
<b>Panel Members:</b>	County Councillors: Lewis Barber, Mark Cory, David King Lee Scordis, Dave Harris.  City Councillors: Richard Kirkby Taylor  Parish Councillor: Robert Johnstone and Sue Allen-Shepherd
<b>Officers:</b>	Essex Highways: Jon Simmons – Senior Highways Liaison Officer  Daniel MacLean – Highways Liaison Team Leader  CCC: Jane Thompson – Transport and Sustainability Lead
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Colchester City Council: Robert Carmichael – Democratic Services Officer.

Item		Owner
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions:</b>  The Chairman welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting including the newly appointed Members.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim Young.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on the 19 December 2023</b>  The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.	

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that on p3 the action to update Members on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN) had been delayed as an officer could not attend the meeting. The Panel heard that this would come to the Panel later in the year in June or September.</p> <p>It was noted that the Highways Liaison Team Leader confirmed that on p3 of the minutes that they had agreed to email all members regarding the proposed Monkwick Cycle improvements and detailed that this email had been sent on the 5 January 2024.</p>	<p><b>DM</b></p> <p><b>DM</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Report on Funded Schemes 2023/24</b></p> <p>The Panel considered a report providing an update on the current position of the previously allocated schemes (Carry Forward Schemes) The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that the following schemes had been completed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monkwick Cycleway Improvements, Maypole, Cycle Route – Implementation of first sections of widened footway/ cycleway from Thomas Lord Audley School to connect to Wych Elm.</li> <li>2. Titania Close j/w Avon Way, Colchester – Dropped kerbs and tactile paving.</li> </ol> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer outlined that the schemes detailed in the Carry Forward Schemes from 2022-2023 included 8 schemes as highlighted in blue in the report were proposed to be sent to the Chairs Panel for decision and that all schemes detailed in yellow required approval from the Committee to be funded in the 2024/2025 Local Highway Panel budget. If agreed it was noted that the Panel would have £138,500 for other schemes to be funded.</p> <p>It was agreed that all the schemes highlighted as yellow in the report were recommissioned as part of the 2024/2025 Local Highway Panel Funding.</p> <p>Some Members detailed that they were concerned that some of the schemes being put forward to a separate panel when they had been awaiting funding for 2 years and that they did not feel any confidence that the schemes would be delivered with some Members raising concerns over where the money originally allocated to schemes had gone, including on footpath schemes.</p> <p>The Chair detailed that they shared the frustration of Members of the panel and detailed that they had been waiting for a zebra crossing since 2016 but confirmed that the Chairs Panel would have different funding that would free up funding for the Local Highways Panels.</p>	

	<p>The Highways Liaison Officer confirmed that the Chairs Panel had a budget of £2 million.</p> <p>Members outlined their frustration regarding the past years meetings and only getting two proposals approved and some Members queried what had happened to the funds that had been previously allocated to schemes and whether Councillors had lost out on pavement and pothole funding.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that they would investigate whether Councillors had been contacted regarding pavement and pothole funding and whether Colchester Councillors had received correspondence.</p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that under the new LHP Scheme Criteria in general larger schemes could not be looked at by the Local Highways Panel but would be looked at by the Chairs Panel.</p> <p>At the request of the Chair, the Highways Liaison Team Leader detailed that the new dashboard would show all Local Highway Panel Schemes across the County and detailed that the recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee had been incorporated into the new dashboard and processes.</p> <p>In response to questions regarding funding that had been provided through locality funding, the Highways Liaison Officer detailed that this was included in the carry forward funding of schemes for 2024/2025. It was confirmed that there were two rounds of funding for the Chairs Panel and if schemes were not funded then they would be returned to the Local Highways Panel for consideration and funding.</p> <p>In response to further questions it was confirmed by the Highways Liaison Team Leader that there was not currently a process for Councillors to feed into the consideration of schemes at the Chairs Panel.</p> <p>It was agreed that all schemes highlighted in blue in the report would be sent to the Local Highways Panel – Chairs Panel for decision.</p>	<b>DM</b>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Report on schemes awaiting funding.</b></p> <p>The Panel considered a report that detailed the schemes that were awaiting funding. The Highways Liaison Officer detailed that the suggestion would be that the schemes previously prioritised by the Panel be elevated to the Chairmen’s Panel and that the Committee look at the schemes in June.</p> <p>The report was noted by the Panel.</p>	

<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Revenue Funding and Traffic Survey Requests 2023/2024</b></p> <p>The Highways Liaison Officer presented the report to the Committee outlining the list of 22 survey requests awaiting funding and that there were 2 Traffic Survey Requests which were externally funded and confirmed that the revenue funding for the panel had not yet been agreed.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the funding would be agreed with the Cabinet Member and that these would be undertaken in order of survey request as soon as possible.</p>	
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>It was noted that there would be additional briefings regarding the updates to the Local Highways Panel Process.</p> <p>Following a question from the Panel the Highways Liaison Officer detailed that the School Streets project was not now within the Local Highway Panel remit and confirmed that Members should have been informed on this and that the Highways Liaison Officer would look into this.</p>	<p><b>JS</b></p>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next meetings:</b></p> <p>Via Video call:</p> <p>Tuesday 18 June 2024 -10:00          Tuesday 17 September 2024 – 10:00          Tuesday 17 December 2024 – 10:00          Tuesday 18 March 2025 – 10:00</p>	