

Guildford Quality Bus Corridors – What we are planning to do

Background & project summary

Guildford has a reasonably comprehensive, well used bus network, with several frequent town services and a number of services that extend to surrounding towns and villages. A good proportion of this network is commercial in whole or in part, with Surrey County Council subsidising some socially necessary services at evenings, weekends and to destinations which have no commercial bus service. Buses are a vital mode of transport in Guildford carrying 15,000 people per day enabling users to access employment commerce and other key services. Surrey County Council has committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions across Surrey by 2050. With 46% of the county's carbon emissions produced by transport, making our bus network a more viable, attractive and sustainable option for travel has an important part to play in achieving net zero. With a further 14,000 homes proposed in Guildford Borough over the next 20 years, the bus network will become even more important, ensuring that the already congested road network is not overwhelmed by the increased daily journeys in the area.

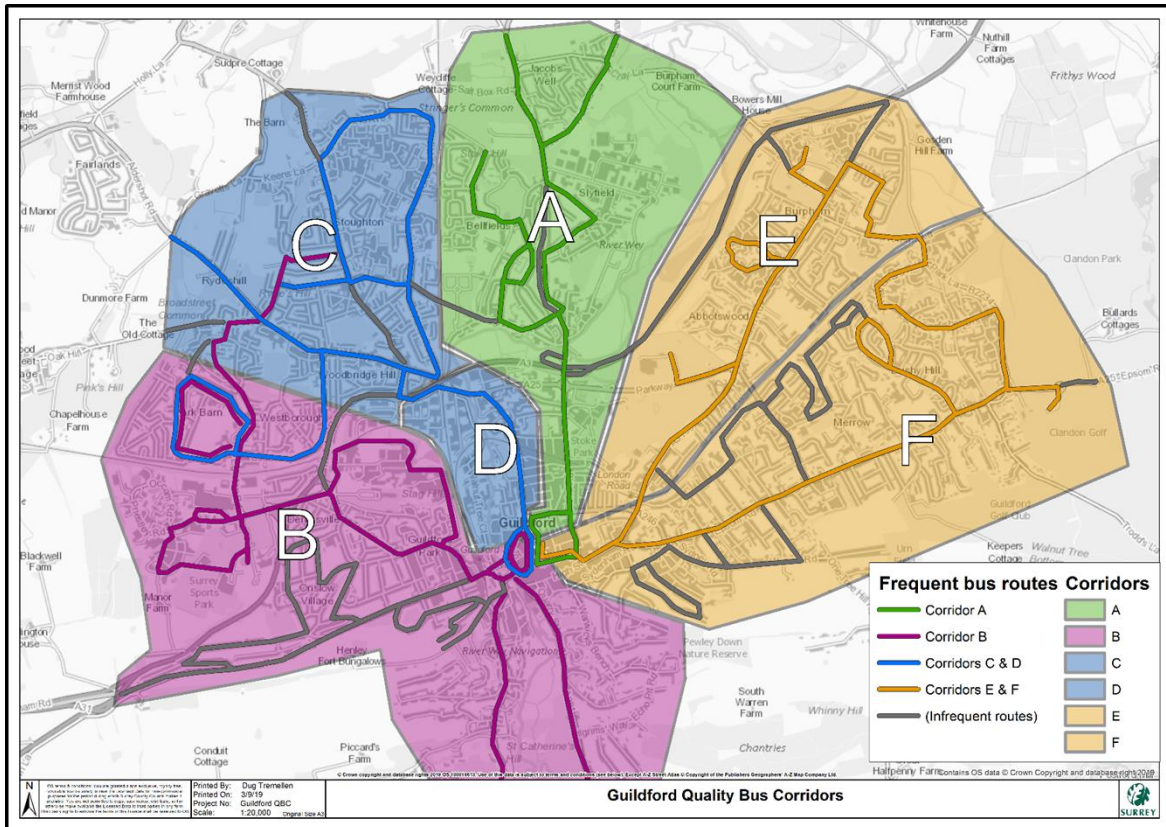
The Guildford Quality Bus Corridor project will invest up to £4.5m into a series of improvements to Guildford's current bus infrastructure by April 2022. The key objectives of the scheme are:

- Improved bus journey time reliability and punctuality.
- Increased levels of bus patronage.
- Reduced bus journey times.

To achieve these outcomes, the project will:

- Improve highways, redesigning roads at locations where buses currently get held up.
- Introduction of upgraded traffic signals which will feature intelligent bus priority technology, which can detect late-running buses and change signal timings in their favour.
- Improve bus stops, including better waiting areas, new shelters, more live bus departure screens and accessibility improvements.

This project will make busses easier and more attractive to use for everyone, make journeys shorter and more punctual and improve bus stop waiting environments. Improvements are being made along a number of bus 'corridors', which are sections of road or roads where several bus services travel in the same or a similar direction. This project seeks to enhance all the principal bus corridors in Guildford shown on the graphic below.



These are identified as;

- Woking Road corridor (A) - Stoke Road and Woking Road heading north out of Guildford towards Bellfields and Jacobs Well
- Southwest corridor (B) - buses entering and exiting Guildford via the gyratory, towards Egerton Road and the hospital, Farnham Road, Artington or Shalford
- Woodbridge Road corridor (C/D) - Woodbridge Road heading northwest out of Guildford towards Woodbridge Hill and Stoughton
- London Road corridor (E) - London Road heading northeast out of Guildford towards Burpham
- Epsom Road corridor (F) - Epsom Road heading east out of Guildford towards Merrow

Intelligent bus priority

Intelligent traffic lights are proposed to be installed across all corridors. These will help to address known 'pinch points' on the bus network, as they can detect late-running buses and adjust the signal cycle times to give them priority though the junction as they approach, helping buses to make up time if they have been delayed. These intelligent junctions are also able to respond to changing traffic conditions throughout the day, helping to keep all traffic moving alleviating general congestion which can otherwise cause buses to become delayed. These signals will help improve bus journey times as well as bus journey time reliability and punctuality.

Highway improvements

Highway improvements are planned on the Epsom Road and Woodbridge Road corridors. On Epsom Road highway improvements are planned for the junction of Bushy Hill Drive with Epsom Road, and at the Park Lane roundabout western arm.

The Epsom Road and Bushy Hill Drive junction is currently a major pinch point, acting as a bottleneck to Guildford-bound traffic on Epsom Road. This is largely due to inadequate queuing space for vehicles turning right into Bushy Hill junction, causing queues to spill into the Guildford-bound traffic lane and causing delays. Proposals would see the traffic lights, pedestrian crossings and central island on Epsom Road immediately east of the junction moved further away from the junction, providing an extended waiting area for traffic turning right from Epsom Road into Bushy Hill Drive. This will reduce the likelihood of right turning vehicles blocking those continuing towards Guildford, helping more traffic through the junction and reducing the congestion that delays buses at this point in peak times. As a part of junction improvements, new intelligent traffic lights will be installed to further improve the flow of traffic and detect late-running bus services.

At Park Lane roundabout, the westbound exit onto Epsom Road heading into town will see its traffic island reduced in size and hatching fronting the island removed to create more room for traffic to merge into the single lane. This formalises an existing situation observed at peak times where many drivers currently wait on the hatched area to merge into the single lane, in order to clear the roundabout and allow other traffic on the roundabout to flow. It is anticipated that formalising this arrangement will help ease traffic flow on this congested roundabout.

The project is also examining options for additional bus priority along the wider A25 Epsom Road corridor between Merrow Park and Ride and Guildford Town Centre. Once the necessary assessment work has been carried out to identify suitable measures for further consultation, we will liaise with councillors in advance of any public consultation exercises. Improvements in this area will significantly improve journey times for busses along the Epsom Road corridor, as services would be able to bypass any queuing traffic on this section, improving bus journey times and punctuality.

On the Woodbridge Road corridor, permissions have been granted after a public consultation which will see the southbound bus lane extended from the roundabout at Stocton Close to the junction with Gardner Road, creating a continuous bus lane. This significantly improves a major bus pinch point under the railway bridge. To do this, on street parking bays along the western side of Woodbridge Road will be reconfigured, with a slight net reduction in the number of available spaces - although the [results of a parking survey on Woodbridge Road](#) show that this will still provide enough capacity based on existing demand. Minor kerblines changes are also proposed for north of the Stocton Close roundabout, which will assist southbound buses in re-entering traffic from the bus stop layby.

Bus stop improvements

Bus stop improvements are proposed across all corridors. Stops will be upgraded to feature live bus departure screens and improved waiting areas, including new bus shelters. Accessibility improvements include raised kerbs which will remove the step down from the bus, as well as realignment of kerb lines to allow more room for busses to pull into the pavement edge. These improvements will improve accessibility to and attractiveness of the bus network, which will in turn likely result in increased bus patronage. This is a list of the [bus stops being upgraded through this project](#). Groundworks and kerbing improvements for bus stops in this list were all implemented on-site in late 2020, except for Bowers Farm Drive (east side) and London Road (south side) adjacent to Burpham Shops - which are currently planned for implementation in spring / summer 2021.

Further information

This information is correct as of May 2021. Please refer to the [Guilford Quality Bus Corridor major scheme page](#) on Surrey County Council's website for more information and up to date progress.