

Stansby, Mark

From: Seed, Jonathon
Sent: 03 February 2023 20:04
To: Stansby, Mark
Subject: FW: Update for LHFIG Chairs

Info.

Jonathon

From: Baldwin, Kate <Kate.Baldwin@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 January 2023 16:13
Cc: Thomas, Caroline <Caroline.Thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk>
Subject: Update for LHFIG Chairs

Please see below message sent of behalf of Caroline Thomas.

Dear LHFIG Chair,

I have recently received feedback setting out some concerns around the level of service being achieved in supporting the work of our Local Highway and Footway Improvement Groups.

You may recall that alongside the increase in funding made available to the LHFIGs, funding was also made available to allow the recruitment of additional highway staff to assist with project delivery. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts three additional roles working on this programme remain unfilled. We have recently launched a high-profile recruitment campaign across all Highways and Transport disciplines in an attempt to fill the considerable number of vacancies that exist across the Directorate at this time. In the meantime, we are working with our term consultant, Atkins, to provide additional support and prioritising resource in line with our Business Plan priorities.

As a Council we recognised that the first year of LHFIG operation would be challenging given the changes made and the wider remit given to the groups. In this context, a commitment was given to formally review operation after 12 months, and I would like to confirm this is a priority of mine and a report will be presented to the Environmental Select Committee in due course.

As you will be aware, it was intended that at the end of the financial year any uncommitted funds held by the LHFIGs would be returned to the overall Highways Integrated Transport Block. However, considering the concerns raised I am pleased to advise this will not be the case this year - uncommitted funds will stay with the Groups and roll into 2023/24.

I have asked officers in the team to provide an update in terms of short- and medium-term deliverables.

I hope this goes some way in addressing the concerns raised.

Kind regards,

Cllr Caroline Thomas
Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough East
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Street Scene and Flooding
07525 934626



