

# Compton Parish Council Local Plan Sub-Committee Report - May 2020

## Road Investment Strategy 2 (April 2020 - March 2025)

The Government's latest Road Investment Strategy (RIS), published in March, does not include the A3 widening scheme through Guildford. The only commitment of any interest to Guildford is the M25/A3 interchange. There is a forward plan for RIS 3, which also has no relevant commitments: just a rejig of the A3/A247 junction at Ripley South, which won't facilitate any of the development proposals close to Guildford town.

Furthermore, there is a page about the Housing Infrastructure Fund, whereby money is made available for road schemes to facilitate housing development rather than mobility. None of the five schemes listed is anywhere near Guildford.

As previously noted, this will have a major impact on the delivery of the Local Plan, particularly the strategic sites.

## Local Plan - Development Management Policies consultation

A seven-week consultation on the Local Plan Development Management Policies will begin early next month. This document will be used by planning officers to determine planning applications. Once adopted, it will, together with the recently adopted Local Plan: Strategy and Sites (LPSS), supersede the policies that remain from the existing Local Plan 2003.

The Local Plan Sub-Committee will aim to prepare a draft response to the consultation on behalf of Compton Parish Council and to circulate this for comment to PC members by the end of June. In the meantime, if any councillors would like to add their thoughts, please contact the chairman Karen Stevens.

## Coronavirus impact

- The Local Plan includes the provision of an additional 40,000sqm to the retail space in Guildford. However, the Guildford Society believes it is now more likely that the town will see a 40,000sqm reduction. Retail sites becoming vacant means that we could end up with a High Street with some parts reverting to offices and accommodation.
- A new trend for home working, together with the likely demise of some businesses, may result in a reduction in the need for office space across the borough, enabling some offices to be used for accommodation.