

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

David Brazier, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

DECISION NO:

22/00110

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Thames Way Scheme – Kent Thameside Strategic Infrastructure Programme

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, I agree to give approval to progress the Thames Way scheme through the stages of development and delivery as indicated below and specifically for:

- I. Approval to delegate the scope change decision, required to allow the scheme to proceed through to detailed design and for the Ebbsfleet Central Application to be determined, to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport under the Officer Scheme of Delegations following prior consultation with the Cabinet Member.
- II. Approval to delegate the decisions to enter into the appropriate land, development and funding agreements, and all other acts, consents and any subsidiary contracts required to allow the scheme to be progressed to the appropriate Corporate Director.
- III. Approval to carry out any public engagement or consultation required for the Thames Way scheme;
- IV. Approval for any further decisions required to allow the scheme to proceed through to detailed design to be taken by the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport under the Officer Scheme of Delegations following prior consultation with the Cabinet Member.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Thames Way Scheme is a strategic priority for the local highway network within the Ebbsfleet area (Dartford and Gravesham border). The scheme will provide the necessary capacity improvements on the highway network to accommodate additional vehicular traffic associated with housing developments within Ebbsfleet and the surrounding area.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposal is being considered by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 19 January 2023.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Progress with the Thames Way scheme as previously proposed; dualling and junction upgrades). The dualling and junction improvements along Thames Way will increase the capacity of Thames Way. The dualling will likely have up to a moderate adverse effect on local species and adverse effects on landcover due to the destruction of local vegetation. Plans for the development of Ebbsfleet Central will not be able to progress in their current form, delaying housing build out for Dartford and Gravesham. The cost for this scheme, without considering current inflation rates, is predicted at £14.4m. This exceeds the available funding.

Halt the scheme – Given the level of development in the area, by 2036, it is expected that the

Thames Way Springhead Road junction will be unable to function effectively during both the AM and PM peak. Presuming Ebbsfleet Central receives planning permission, three of the four junctions within the original scheme will be upgraded by this development improving the capacity across the western end of Thames Way.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

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date