

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Peter Osborne, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

DECISION NUMBER:

25-00110

Executive Decision – key

A28 Sturry Link Road

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport PORTFOLIO, I agree to:

- I. Give approval to progress the construction of the Sturry Link Road A28 roundabout and associated works utilising banked S106 funding in order to implement the planning permission for the scheme.
- II. Subject to a successful Homes England bid, delegate to the Corporate Director of Finance (S151 Officer), the authority to accept Brownfield, Infrastructure and Land (BIL) funding from Homes England to deliver the A28 Sturry Link Road viaduct.
- III. Confirm that other decisions in Record of Decision 18/00027 and 23/00066 remain extant.
- IV. Approval for any other further decisions required to allow the scheme to proceed through construction to be taken by the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport under the Officer Scheme of Delegations following prior consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport.

Reasons for decision:

The Sturry Link Road is a major infrastructure project aimed at reducing congestion at the Sturry level crossing and improving journey reliability along the A28. It is essential for supporting the delivery of over 6,000 new homes and enabling further economic and housing growth in East Kent, as outlined in the Canterbury City Council's Local Plan.

Financial implications:

The total estimated cost of the scheme is £53.9 million, which includes £6.4 million set aside for risk and contingency.

So far, £6.5 million has been spent on surveys, design development, consultation, planning, and compulsory purchase order (CPO) processes.

All officer time from Highways and Transportation has been capitalised to the scheme funding.

To date, £44.1 million has been secured from Section 106 (S106) agreements and government grants. However, there remains a funding gap of £9.8 million, which the council hopes to fill with a grant from Homes England. A final decision on this grant is expected within the month.

Legal implications:

There are significant legal implications associated with the scheme,

Legal oversight and advice have been engaged and provided throughout on all aspects the scheme to enable successful delivery. All risks will be considered and managed as part of the overall project management of the scheme.

Before entering into the Grant Funding Agreement with Homes England further legal advice will be sought to ensure all conditions are acceptable to KCC and can be met.

Equalities implications:

The scheme brings long-term benefits for people in Age, Disability, Pregnancy & Maternity, and Carer Responsibility groups—improving access and connectivity. While there may be minor, short-term impacts during construction, no lasting negative effects are expected

Data Protection implications:

None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This version of the PROD was included in the agenda pack for committee members to review ahead of the meeting.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Delaying the project risks planning permission expiring, leading to costly resubmission (up to £4m) and reputational damage, as the scheme is vital for the Local Plan and traffic management.

Delaying without Homes England funding increases financial risk, leaving a funding gap and requiring KCC to advance S106 contributions not yet received.

Cancelling the project would result in £9m of sunk costs, significant reputational harm, loss of future funding opportunities, and undermine housing growth plans, while traffic would increase without capacity improvements.

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