

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Simon Jones

Corporate Director, Growth, Environment & Transport

DECISION NO:

To be completed by
Democratic Services

For publication

Subject matter: Variation to Bean Road Underpass Funding Arrangements

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Decision 19/00051 – Fastrack Full Network Bean Road Tunnel

Decision - 23/00104 - Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) - Grant Funding - Kent County Council - Council & Democracy

Decision: To approve

- The revised funding arrangements for the Bluewater loan funding for the Bean Road Underpass scheme.
- The payment of £225,000 to Bluewater/Landsec upon commencement of the Fastrack services through the underpass to cover administrative costs associated with maintaining the £4 million interest-free loan contribution.
- Funding of this payment from the existing BSIP allocation already approved for the scheme.
- Confirmation that the overall scheme funding envelope remains unchanged and no additional KCC funding is required.

Reason(s) for decision:

This decision is required to approve a variation to the funding arrangements for the Bean Road Underpass scheme, enabling a payment to Blueco/Landsec to maintain the existing £4 million interest-free loan contribution.

The payment will be met from the approved BSIP allocation, with no increase to the overall scheme funding envelope or additional KCC funding requirement.

This decision provides the necessary authority to proceed

Financial Implications:

The funding for Bean Road Underpass is made up of:

- £11.4m EDC funding, part refundable and part non-refundable
- £0.75m Henley Camland funding
- £132k Covid Grant
- £12.247m BSIP funding
- £4m Bluewater loan funding

The £4m Bluewater loan remains interest-free, and the core loan arrangement is unchanged. However, a one-off additional payment of £225k is now required in connection with the loan arrangements. This is not an increase to the loan value and does not change the interest-free status of the £4m loan.

The additional payment will be funded from within the existing BSIP allocation, comprising £9.5m original allocation and £2.747m additional allocation diverted from other priority initiatives which have

underspent. The DfT allows Public Transport to move up to £5m between BSIP initiatives. There is, therefore, no increase in the total project cost, no increase in KCC's capital contribution, and the overall BSIP allocation to the project remains unchanged.

Legal implications:

- Decision 19/00051 approved the Fastrack Full Network Bean Road Tunnel scheme and delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to take further or other decisions as appropriate to deliver the scheme, in consultation with the Cabinet Member.
- The decision also sits within the approved BSIP governance framework, including the relevant BSIP decision and the delegated arrangements for delivery through the Enhanced Partnership Board and associated programme governance.
- The Consolidated Agreement underpinning the scheme's funding arrangements, including the loan provision, has been reviewed by KCC's commissioned legal support and will be updated to ensure the payment is appropriately documented, with KCC's rights, obligations and repayment arrangements clearly defined and protected.

Equality Implications:

The decision relates to the funding arrangements for the Bean Road Underpass scheme and does not alter the approved scope, design or delivery of the scheme. As such, no new or additional equality impacts are expected to arise directly from this decision.

Any equality implications associated with the delivery and operation of the wider Bean Road Underpass scheme will continue to be managed through the existing project governance, design and assessment processes. This decision does not change those arrangements and does not require a separate Equality Impact Assessment.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Cllr Peter Osborne, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport has been consulted throughout discussions between KCC and Bluewater.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not agreeing to the loan arrangement cover fee risking the £4m loan being withdrawn or becoming interest-bearing.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None



15.07.2026

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signed

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date