

By: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Environment Highways & Waste
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To: Environment, Highways & Waste Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 18 January 2011

Subject: Growth Without Gridlock – A Transport Delivery Plan for Kent

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report informs Members about the recent launch of Growth without Gridlock, KCC's landmark transport delivery plan for the county and invites comments on the proposed innovative ways of delivering the programme.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In October 2009, KCC published *Unlocking Kent's Potential, a framework for regeneration* which set out the opportunities and challenges facing the County over the coming decades. This was followed by *21st Century Kent: A Blueprint for the County's Future*, which was launched in January 2010 to provide a longer-term, visionary view of Kent. It was identified during the preparation of *Unlocking Kent's Potential* that it would inform the development of a series of further strategies and implementation plans, including an Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) for Kent.

2. An Integrated Transport Strategy for Kent

- 2.1 Between March and November 2009, a draft ITS was prepared by the County Council's Transport Policy Team, overseen by the Kent Economic Board Transport Task Group. Consultation on the ITS was launched on 19th November 2009 and closed on 12th February 2010. The consultation generated over 150 responses and comments received were generally favourable, with the overall vision of an integrated transport network particularly welcomed. This ITS was re-drafted during early 2010 with a particular emphasis on ensuring consistency and linkages with the emerging Environment and Housing Strategies.

3. Growth Without Gridlock – A Transport Delivery Plan for Kent

- 3.1 During the summer of 2010, in response to the changing political and economic landscape and an emphasis on local decision making and increased flexibility for local councils, the ITS was revised into a groundbreaking 20 year Transport Delivery Plan. This became a document which KCC could submit to the Coalition Government, highlighting those schemes that could be delivered by KCC and its partners, asking for greater

powers and flexibilities and calling on the Government to progress those schemes of national importance including a Lower Thames Crossing, a long-term solution to Operation Stack and a scheme of foreign lorry road user charging.

3.2 *Growth without gridlock* – A transport delivery plan for Kent was successfully launched at a well attended media event on 1st December 2010 at County Hall and an executive summary was made available to attendees. At this event, KCC also launched two reports on the Lower Thames Crossing which looked at the feasibility of various crossing locations and the business case and regeneration benefits of a crossing to the east of Gravesend.

It has received national press coverage, and the proposed schemes and the innovative ways of delivering them have generated private sector and media interest.

3.3 A full version of the 20 year Transport Delivery Plan is now available on the KCC website and hard copies will be sent to all stakeholders and partners.

4. Future Plans

4.1 Members and officers will be meeting with Ministers to press for the freedoms to implement this Transport Delivery Plan and also seek a commitment to hypothecate new money raised from foreign lorry charging etc to Kent. The Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership will provide an opportunity to secure funding and deliver strategic transport infrastructure and the County Council will work with all its partners to maximise the benefits for Kent and its communities.

5. Recommendations

Members of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to:

1. Note the publication of KCC's *Growth without gridlock - A transport delivery plan for Kent*
2. Submit views on the proposed innovative ways of delivering the programme.

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Background Documents:

Kent County Council, *Growth without gridlock – A transport delivery plan for Kent*, December 2010

Kent County Council, *Growth without gridlock – A transport delivery plan for Kent (Executive Summary)*, December 2010