

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Matthew Balfour, Cabinet Member – Environment and Transport

DECISION NO:

15/00011

For publication or exempt – please state

Subject: Highways & Transportation Schemes Funded through the South East Local Enterprise Partnership.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment, I give approval to take 7 Local Growth Fund schemes through the next stages of development and delivery including authority to progress statutory approvals and consultation where appropriate, and to enter into funding and construction contracts. These schemes are:

- Tonbridge Town Centre Regeneration Scheme, in drg. No. 4300127/000/11,
- North Deal Transport Improvements, in drg. No. NDTI-1,
- Maidstone Sustainable access to Employment areas, as shown in drg. No. MSAEA-1,
- Sittingbourne Town Centre Regeneration, as shown in drg. No. STCR-1,
- A26 London Rd/Speldhurst Rd/Yew Tree Rd, Tunbridge Wells, in drg. No. KCC/LTP/YTR/001,
- West Kent Local Sustainable Transport Fund and
- Kent Thameside Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

Specifically to:

- give approval to progress the design of the schemes for development control and land charge disclosures;
- give approval to progress all statutory approvals or consents required for the schemes;
- give approval to carry out consultation on the schemes;
- give approval to enter into Single Local Growth Fund funding agreement subject to the approval of the Corporate Director of Finance & Procurement, and
- give approval to enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the schemes subject to the approval of the Procurement Board to the recommended procurement

Reason(s) for decision:

Funding for a number of highway and transportation improvement schemes aimed at enabling and supporting *Growth Without Gridlock* has been allocated to Kent County Council, following successful bids to central government via the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP). Each of the schemes, to be delivered between 2015/16 and 2020/21, represents funding of over £1m in value, hence requiring Cabinet Member approval. Approval is sought to take 7 of these schemes through the next stages of development and delivery including authority to progress statutory approvals and consultation where appropriate, and to enter into funding and construction contracts.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Environment & Transport Cabinet committee considered the proposal decision at its meeting on

9 April 2015. Some concern was expressed concerning the Sittingbourne Town Centre Scheme though all Members resolved to endorse the proposal without amendment.

Any alternatives considered:

In 2014 Kent County Council put forward bids for a number of highway and transportation improvement schemes across Kent as part of the *Growth Deal* programme. These schemes were selected where they represented a good rate of return in terms of enabling sustainable economic development through their contribution to adding highway capacity, improving accessibility and tackling congestion. The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) then undertook an appraisal to scrutinise the schemes and prioritise them in terms of their value for money comparing all of the submissions across the south east area. The schemes are being developed through local partnerships and options are being considered as part of this process including reports to local Joint Transportation Boards.

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

None

.....
signed



.....
date

15th May 2015