

By: Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

Simon Jones, Director of Highways, Transportation and Waste

To: Cabinet – 28 January 2019

Decision: 19/00002

Subject: Grant for Kent's road network needs to support Operation Brock

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report provides details of the section 31 financial grant awarded by the Department for Transport in connection to Kent's road network needs to support Operation Brock.

Recommendation:

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) AGREE to accept the Grant under the terms and conditions required by Government; and
- b) APPROVE the implementation of the necessary works as detailed in this report and the Grant specification; and
- c) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport to, in consultation with the Leader and / or Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transportation and Waste, take any necessary actions to implement this decision, including but not limited to entering into relevant legal agreements and authorising spend from the Grant.

1. Background

1.1. KCC has been working closely with the Department for Transport (DfT), Kent Police and Highways England, amongst others, to establish plans to manage HGV's and passenger traffic in Kent in anticipation of Brexit on the 29th March 2019.

1.2. Operation Brock provides:

- A20 TAP holding location;
- M20 J8-J9 contraflow and HGV holding area;
- HGV holding area at Manston Airport;
- A256 holding area; and
- M26 HGV holding area.

1.3. Since July 2018, officers have been developing and refining the business cases necessary to address the various requirements and operational impacts arising from the varying stages of Operation Brock.

- 1.4. We were required to reflect the routine management of 10,000 HGV's across Kent over a 6-month period following 29th March 2019.
- 1.5. On 21st December 2018, DfT formally confirmed a Section 31 Grant Award of £28.81m.

2. Content

2.1. The grant is provided to:

- Make small scale local road network improvements to the routes utilised by HGVs when the Manston airfield option is deployed. This includes strengthening and resurfacing of key stretches of road on the A249, A256 and A299;
- Undertake high priority work needed to support any other local roads including local roads affected by the possible closure of the M26 such as the A20 and A25. This also includes undertaking enhanced maintenance activities to drainage, tunnels, and vegetation;
- Improve Manston infrastructure to increase Manston's capacity including a new site access and a potential temporary hardstanding;
- To support compliance and enforcement measures of the overall Brock traffic management system including CCTV and ANPR equipment. Including improvements to the Operation Control Centre and provision of county traffic model and traffic data analytics;
- To provide a TAP on A256 close to Dover; and
- An enhanced operational organisation.

2.2 The scope addresses the anticipated impact upon our local road network and through close working with DfT we have secured the full amounts requested.

2.3 We identified various environmental issues (e.g. littering) which would impact local districts. We are co-ordinating their proposals with a view to supporting a submission to MHCLG.

3. Finance

3.1. The work has been priced (£m) as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Key Route carriageway resurfacing and strengthening | £15.70M |
| • Signs, Signals, Structures, Other Asset enhanced maintenance/renewal including TAP 256 | £3.26M |
| • Traffic Technology Systems | £4.95M |
| • Manston Airfield improvements and maintenance | £4.90M |
| • Total | £28.81M |

3.2 DfT has verbally confirmed that the grant can be used for both capital and revenue work activities. Formal confirmation is awaited.

4. Organisation

4.1. The planned dedicated project organisation:

- Programme Manager
- Assistant Programme Manager
- Communications Support
- Delivery Planner
- TRO Support
- Control Room Operators
- Emergency Response Engineers/Inspectors

4.2. We have identified the resources required and recruitment is underway. Many posts have been filled by internal staff and we are backfilling those posts accordingly.

4.3. Procurement is underway for vehicles and associated equipment.

4.4. Additional resources have been included within each work package. Road asset engineers, drainage engineers and clerk of works/inspectors are being recruited.

5. **Governance**

5.1. The grant requires that the planned work should be delivered by the 29th March 2019.

5.2. Regular fortnightly progress reports are to be provided to DfT, with associated supporting evidence.

5.3. Regular updates will also be provided to the Cabinet.

5.4. Approval is sought to progress with the identified activity within this report and for the Corporate Director GET to receive full delegated authority to spend the grant monies defined within this report subject always to prior consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste.

6. **Progress to Date (correct as at date of this report)**

6.1. *Strengthening and Resurfacing*

- Condition surveys complete and large-scale machine resurfacing commencing in Thanet and Dover.
- Condition surveys are underway on local roads including the A20 and A25 to establish locations to strengthen, renew and enhance the road and footway condition.

6.2. *Other Assets*

- Surveys for key tunnel and ventilation systems have been completed and work orders are in progress.
- A229, A249 and A256 have been inspected with over 300 gully strengthening orders in progress.
- An enhanced cleansing campaign is due to commence on the A20 and A25.

- 7 lagoons on the Thanet Way or through Dover have been surveyed with work orders for enhanced maintenance in progress.
- Pumps on the Thanet Way have been identified for servicing/ replacement and a full CCTV Survey of the Thanet Way (prone to flooding) is underway.
- The HGV holding area on the A256 has been designed and initially tested during the Manston exercise. Work is underway to implement an appropriate traffic regulation order, signage and other infrastructure.

6.3 *Traffic Technology*

- Surveys for CCTV locations have been undertaken and orders are being placed to secure key equipment.
- Evaluation of ANPR and yellow box camera enforcement locations is underway.
- Evaluation of traffic data capture, modelling analysis systems is underway.
- Control room improvement programme in development.

6.4 *Manston*

- A new entrance has been formed. This was used during the recent exercise. Some modification is required.
- Lining and signing plans are in development.
- Kent Fire Service are undertaking a fire risk assessment of the truck spacing at Manston.
- New hardstanding areas, discussions commenced with key supplier.

6.5 *TAP 256*

- Design complete, signals and bolt down island ordered.
- Initial layout, location and application tested during live exercise. Further modifications are required. Site meeting planned with Kent Police.

6.6 *Lorry Control Zone and Traffic Orders*

- Engagement and evaluation of London Lorry Control Zone operation and systems underway.
- Review of associated TRO's commenced.

6.7 Work continues with Strategic Commissioning to ensure market engagement, best value and timely delivery

6.8 Recruitment is underway to establish a dedicated Project Office.

7. **Next Steps**

7.1 We are collating a further funding application to MHCLG to address the business continuity impact upon service delivery.

7.2 This application will also include the anticipated Brexit impact upon other Kent local authorities.

7.3 Treasury has allocated £35M to MHCLG for local authorities and local resilience forums.

7.4 Through business continuity planning review, we have identified additional:

- staff to respond to an increase in service demand, welfare delivery, cleansing, and waste services;
- flexible working technology and equipment; and
- Specific impact has been identified in Trading Standards and recruitment has commenced to enhance the team in order to address the increase in safety checks.

8. Recommendation

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9. Contact Details

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