

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

Simon Jones, Director Highways, Transportation and Waste

To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Subject: **Brexit Grant Review**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: N/A

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Decision: All

**Summary:** This report sets out the content and progress of the Section 31 Grant provided from the Department of Transport to Kent County Council Highways to prepare for Brexit on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Committee is asked to note progress in KCC delivering traffic management and road asset improvements.

## 1. Background

1.1. KCC continues to work closely with the Department for Transport (DfT), Kent Police and Highways England, amongst others, to implement plans to manage HGV's and passenger traffic in Kent in anticipation of Brexit on 29 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 plans necessary to address the various requirements and operational impacts arising from the varying stages of Operation Brock (freight) and Operation Perch (passenger vehicles).

1.4. Based on central government's assumptions, together with our partners we have planned for the routine management of 10,000 HGV's across Kent over a 6-month period following 29 March 2019.

1.5. On 21 December 2018, DfT formally confirmed a Section 31 Grant Award of £28.81m to KCC.

## 2. Detail of the Agreed Works

2.1. KCC officers submitted a proposal to DfT detailing a programme of works necessary to strengthen and enhance the local road network. These improvement works were in response to the DfT stated increase in HGV volume and recognised the local routes required to be used by Operation Fennel to manage this traffic. The proposal stipulated:

- 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 temporary hardstanding;
- Support compliance and enforcement measures of the overall Brock traffic management system including CCTV/ANPR equipment and improvements to the Operation Control Centre and provision of county traffic model and traffic data analytics; and
- provide a TAP on A256 close to Dover.

## 3. Finance

3.1. Our submission to DfT priced the proposed works 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£28.81M</b>

## 4. Reporting and Governance

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

- 4.2. Regular fortnightly progress reports are provided to DfT with associated supporting evidence.
- 4.3. The Corporate Director GET has full delegated authority to spend the grant monies subject to prior consultation with the Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste.

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

5.1. Significant work has been undertaken at pace and is summarised below:

### 5.2. Strengthening and Resurfacing

- Large-scale machine resurfacing underway on A256, A299 and A256.
- Roads adjacent to M2, M20 & M26 likely to be impacted by increased traffic being locally enhanced and strengthened using 11 local SMEs providing road patching.

The roads affected include:

A2 (KCC network), A20, A25, A227, A226

### 5.3. Other Assets

- Enhancements being undertaken to Ramsgate and Chestfield Tunnels and to Sevenscore underpass. This includes drainage, PA, power, ventilation and traffic management systems.
- Central barriers installed.
- A229, A249 and A256 drains have been inspected, cleansed and strengthened with over 200 gullies lids replaced, 5200 dig outs and over 300 gully bases improved.
- An enhanced drainage cleansing and strengthening along the full length of the A20 and A25.
- 7 lagoons on the Thanet Way have been cleansed, maintained and enhanced. Additional soakaways provided.
- Pumps on the Thanet Way have been serviced/ replaced and a CCTV survey of the Thanet Way (areas prone to flooding) undertaken.
- Enhanced vegetation clearance undertaken on key routes to improve sight lines and safety.
- Manufacture of 1100 route signs by local provider underway.

### 5.4. Traffic Technology

- CCTV equipment being provided on key routes, including 7 traffic signal sites and with 42 lamp columns, prepared for site installation.
- Supply of 4G modems for use at CCTV, VMS and signals sites.
- 5 solar powered CCTV columns for locations remote from power sources.

- Keep clear and yellow box locations identified, with lining work due to commence.
- Traffic management and modelling system is being procured.
- Roadside variable message signs ordered.

#### 5.5. Manston

- Local supplier appointed to provide HGV hardstanding.
- Works progressing on-site.
- Special dispensation provided for short-term extended hours for quarry operations at Hermitage Lane, Maidstone.
- Supplier also appointed Manston Principal Contractor.
- DfT appointed a Principal Designer and design authority for drainage and hardstanding.
- Working with the Environment Agency to manage surface water from runway and drainage.
- Exit road resurfacing planned.
- Exit gate being widened to allow clear exit from site.

#### 5.6. TAP 256

- Design complete, signals and bolt down island ordered. Civil works underway.

#### 5.7. Traffic Orders

- Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders:
  - Clearway order for A249, A299 and A256 drafted
  - Freight Lane order for A249, A299 and A256 drafted
  - 7.5T Weight limits to restrict side roads off Manston Route drafted, and
  - 7.5T Weight limits to restrict side roads off the A2 approaching Dover drafted.

### 6. Next Steps

- 6.1. Work continues to deliver the agreed programme. Whilst a few shifts were lost to adverse weather conditions we remain on target to deliver our objectives by 29<sup>th</sup> March.
- 6.2. Additional inspections underway to seek any further improvements to the road infrastructure.
- 6.3. HGV route compliance plan underway with, amongst others DfT, Kent Police and Highways England. Check points identified and tools to check compliance in development
- 6.4. Working with RHA and FTA regarding local trader permits.

- 6.5. A proposal has been made to DfT regarding an enhanced operational response following Brexit. This includes a faster response time and traffic patrols to address incidents and emergencies.
- 6.6. Routine progress reports have been provided to DfT and Appendix A provides a series of photographs of work done to date.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1. Since receiving the Section 31 Grant, Kent County Council Highways has responded at pace, utilising available local contractors to deliver significant resilience and asset enhancement to Kent's local roads, footways, drainage, structures, landscaping and technology in order to be prepared for the potential traffic impacts arising from Brexit.

## **8. Recommendations**

- 8.1. The Cabinet Committee is asked to note progress in KCC delivering traffic management and road asset improvements.

## **9. Contact details**

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**Appendix A – Progress Photographs**

**Manston Airport: Hardstanding Works**



**Road Enhancement:**





