

From: Michael Payne - Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Barbara Cooper - Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 15 September 2020

Decision No: 20/00082

Subject: Ebbsfleet Development Corporation Funded Programme – Green Corridors Programme Phase 3

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: For Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Swanscombe and Greenhithe, Northfleet & Gravesend West, Dartford Rural and Gravesham Rural

Summary: Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) is providing KCC with a grant of £7.4m between 2020/21 and 2022/23 to manage and deliver the Green Corridors Phase 3 Programme.

The principle behind the Green Corridors project is to aid the creation of a walking and cycling culture to improve public realm, the quality of life for residents and resident satisfaction, whilst making routes safer to use, more appealing and less polluted by traffic. It aims to connect developments around Ebbsfleet Garden City by implementing usable walking and cycling infrastructure within a fully connected network.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport to give approval for KCC to accept the capital grant from Ebbsfleet Development Company and to take the Green Corridors Phase 3 Programme through the next stages of development and delivery as indicated on the proposed decision sheet attached at Appendix A and specifically for

- i. Approval to enter into a funding agreement with EDC subject to the approval of the Corporate Director of Finance, Corporate & Strategic Services;
- ii. Approval for KCC to appoint a Project Manager to deliver the programme;

- iii) Approval to undertake the design and surveys for the project. This work will be undertaken by appointing a consultant through the KCC professional Services Framework Contract;
- iv. Approval to progress all statutory approvals or consents required for the schemes, including transfer of land and rights;
- v. Approval to carry out any additional consultation required for the schemes;
- vi. Approval to enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the schemes;
- vii. Approval for any further decisions required to allow the schemes to proceed through to delivery to be taken by the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport under the Officer Scheme of Delegations following prior consultation with the Cabinet Member.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) is providing KCC with a grant of £7.4m between 2020/21 and 2022/23 to manage and deliver the Green Corridors Phase 3 Programme.
- 1.2 The principle behind the Green Corridors project is to aid the creation of a walking and cycling culture to improve public realm, the quality of life for residents and resident satisfaction, whilst making routes safer to use, more appealing and less polluted by traffic. It aims to connect developments around Ebbsfleet Garden City by implementing usable walking and cycling infrastructure within a fully connected network.
- 1.3 Phase 3 of the initiative will provide a combination of new routes to connect developments with destinations and improvements to existing routes. The programme will provide up to 20 small scale improvements and 2 large scale improvements to existing routes alongside up to 6 new routes.
- 1.4 Through KCC managing and delivering this programme of works, there are further opportunities to shape the routes which are progressed; in particular linking with potential initiatives being delivered through the Emergency Active Travel fund as well as Local Growth Fund schemes which have already been delivered.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 The Green Corridors programme is fully externally funded by EDC. EDC will provide a capital grant of £7.4m to KCC between 2020/21 and 2022/23 which will be used to deliver the programme of walking and cycling improvements around Ebbsfleet Garden City.

2.2 KCC Officer time required for the delivery of the programme will be capitalised and met from the project funding; so there will no revenue costs to KCC in delivering this project.

3. Policy Framework

3.1 The scheme contributes towards Strategic Outcome 2 “Kent communities feel the benefits of economic growth by being in work, healthy and enjoying a good quality of life”.

3.2 The provision of safe and attractive walking and cycling routes, linking new developments with key destinations, gives Kent’s residents options for travel, improving access to employment, education, health care and local amenities without relying on the private car. This programme aims to improve health and wellbeing, reduce levels of congestion and improve air quality.

4. The Report

4.1 The principle behind the Green Corridors project is to aid the creation of a walking and cycling culture to improve public realm, the quality of life for residents and resident satisfaction, whilst making routes safer to use, more appealing and less polluted from traffic. It aims to connect developments around Ebbsfleet Garden City by implementing usable walking and cycling infrastructure within a fully connected network.

4.2 EDC has considered options for the routes to be investigated as part of the Green Corridors programme. The long list of routes comprised all the missing walking and cycling links needed to connect the planned new developments with existing destinations. This list was reduced to a shortlist by removing all links which are expected to come forward through developer contributions. The short list is attached at appendix B.

4.3 EDC also considered options for delivery which included EDC funding and directly delivering the schemes or EDC fund KCC to deliver as the Highway Authority utilising approved highway contractors.

4.4 EDC’s preferred delivery method is that KCC deliver the programme as the Highway Authority. This delivery method also has benefits for KCC by allowing KCC to influence the routes which are taken forward.

4.5 EDC as the programme promoter and funder will produce an EQIA and this will be made available to KCC prior to the grant agreement letter being signed.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Green Corridors Programme is fully externally funded by EDC and the extent of the works delivered is scalable dependent on the level of funding available. No KCC funding will be used to deliver the schemes and officer time will be capitalised against the grant provided by EDC.

5.2 EDC's preferred delivery method is that KCC deliver the programme as the Highway Authority. This delivery method also has benefits for KCC by allowing KCC to influence the routes which are taken forward to link with other initiatives and schemes already delivered as well as ensuring that the schemes are installed in line with our Asset Management Plan.

6. Recommendation(s)

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The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport to give approval for KCC to accept the capital grant from Ebbsfleet Development Company and to take the Green Corridors Phase 3 Programme through the next stages of development and delivery as indicated on the proposed decision sheet attached at Appendix A and specifically for:

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- vii. Approval for any further decisions required to allow the schemes to proceed through to delivery to be taken by the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport under the Officer Scheme of Delegations following prior consultation with the Cabinet Member.

7. Background Documents

Appendix A – Proposed record of decision
Appendix B – Routes List
Appendix C - Equalities Impact Assessment

8. Contact details

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