

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Neil Baker, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

**DECISION NO:**

25/00018

**For publication****Key decision: YES****Subject Matter / Title of Decision:**

Kent Street junction improvements and road widening of A228 Malling Road between Kent Street and Beech Road, Tonbridge and Malling.

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, I agree to:

- i. Approve the delivery of a traffic calming scheme to mitigate the impact of traffic arising from the Kings Hill Phase 3 development
- ii. Approve that the cost of staff and consultant time to project manage, input into the delivery and supervision of the scheme, be recoverable against the S106 Developer Contributions and Kent Lane Rental funding;
- iii. Approve to progress all statutory approvals or consents required for the scheme;
- iv. Approve the implementation of permanent Traffic Regulation Orders, if required as such associated with any speed limit reductions, subject to completing the statutory consultation process associated with Traffic Regulation Orders;
- v. Approve any additional consultation/engagement as required for the scheme;
- vi. Approve to enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the scheme subject to a review of the procurement strategy by the Strategic Commissioning team; and
- vii. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision

**Reason(s) for decision:**

From 23 May to 3 July 2023, Kent County Council (KCC) consulted on proposals for a junction improvement scheme at Kent Street and A228 Malling Road in Maidstone. The junction currently has very poor visibility for vehicles wishing to turn out and into the A228 Malling Road from Kent Street. The scheme proposes to install traffic signals at the junctions on Malling Road and Kent Street, widening of the carriageway widths to aid heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and turning in to Kent Street, create a push button pedestrian crossing facility on Malling Road and construct a shared cycle and footway along Malling Road.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision is being considered by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 25 February 2025.

A signalised junction incorporating a controlled pedestrian crossing on the A228 and widening the carriageway between Kent Street and Beech Road was consulted on and a recommendation to proceed to construction agreed by the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Joint Transportation Board in September 2023.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

Other potential scheme options were considered as part of an option appraisal process and consulted on; however none were considered suitable alternatives as they did not improve the visibility for vehicles exiting Kent Street West and Kent Street East onto the A228 Malling Road.

The option of not promoting upgrades to the local road network was also considered not to be feasible due to the road safety implications and proposed development growth within the district and neighbouring districts with additional large vehicle movements through a narrow section of the route between Mereworth and Kings Hill.

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

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signed

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date