

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY

Neil Baker, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

DECISION NO:

25/00035

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: Aylesford Towpath Improvements/embankment reinforcement

Decision:

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

1. APPROVE the progression and delivery of the Aylesford Towpath improvements scheme
2. APPROVE that the cost of staff and consultancy time for the delivery and supervision of the project, be recovered against project funding
3. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to obtain and implement Statutory Orders, approvals or consents required for the scheme, including but not limited to Compulsory Purchase Order, Side Roads Order and any Traffic Regulation Orders required for the delivery and successful operation of the scheme
4. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment and Transport, to negotiate and complete all required land acquisition including by means of Compulsory Purchase Order as necessary to secure the delivery and future maintenance of the scheme
5. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to procure and enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the scheme, subject to the approval of the Commercial and Procurement Division.
6. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to take relevant actions, including but not limited to, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary, to implement the above decision

Reason(s) for decision:

In September 2023, Active Travel England proposed awarding a further capital grant to Highway Authorities, extending the Tranche 4 funding previously provided. Previous schemes that narrowly missed successful funding could be resubmitted. The Aylesford Towpath was selected by the Member Walking and cycling Group to be put forward for resubmission. A key decision is required to enable officers to project manage delivery of the scheme which is a key route to unlock a wider network of active travel routes and which will also address long-standing health and safety issues that have closed part of the route,

Reason for Urgency

The terms and conditions of the ATE grant require the funding to be spent by March 2026. Due to long lead times for materials, deferring the decision to June will put this funding at risk as it will

impact on the programme delivery programme.
Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
Any alternatives considered: The only other option is to permanently close the route which universally has not been supported due to the importance of the route.
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

Name: