

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Whiting

Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

DECISION NO:

17/00025(b)

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: A2500 Lower Road Improvements – Phase 2 Lower Road Widening

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste I agree to give

- i) approval to the outline design for the A2500 Lower Road Widening, for public consultation, development control and land charge disclosures as shown on Drawing. No. 0323-PH2-PE-001 Rev 0. (Fig. 1)
- ii) to progress the design through the next stages of development and delivery including any ancillary works such as drainage and environmental mitigation;
- iii) to take all steps necessary to obtain and implement all statutory Orders and approvals or consents required for the schemes;
- iv) to enter into land and funding agreements associated with development contributions;
- v) to enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the scheme subject to the approval of the Strategic Commissioning Board to the recommended procurement strategy, and
- vi) for the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment & Transport, under the Officer Scheme of Delegations, to take further or other decisions as may be appropriate to deliver the A2500 Lower Road Improvement scheme in accordance with these recommendations and the earlier overarching decisions given under Record of Decisions 17/00025, that remains extant

Reason(s) for decision:

The A2500 Lower Road is a narrow single carriageway route, often described as the ‘missing link’ in Sheppey’s road network. This road currently does not provide a safe and suitable route for all users. The narrow road width, lack of verges and abutting hedgerows create a constrained corridor, with no facilities for cyclists or pedestrians. This effectively severs the connection for non-motorised road users between the residential areas of south Minster and employment opportunities in Queenborough and is a poor-quality route for vehicular traffic with ever-growing maintenance issues. Larger vehicles struggle to pass each other when traveling in opposite directions and this adds to the deterioration of the carriageway edge.

It is proposed to improve the A2500 Lower Road between Cowstead Corner and Barton Hill Drive and the Barton Hill Drive junction and provide a much need footway/cycleway link along Lower Road.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

A report to this Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 13 March 2017 gave details of the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Growth deal (Round 3) that included the allocation of funding for the

Lower Road Improvements and specifically the Barton Hill junction improvement (Phase1). The Record of Decision is 17/000025.

The proposals for Phase 1 were first presented to Minster Parish Council on 20 October 2016. This was followed by a presentation to Minster Parish Council on 7th December 2017, with an update on both Phase 1 and 2. The proposals for Phases 1 and 2 were presented to the Swale Joint Transportation Board on 18 December 2017. A public exhibition was held at the Minster Parish Council Office's on 5 December 2017.

A further public engagement exercise is planned in June 2018 prior to commencement of construction of Phase 1 to give further information on the programme and traffic management required to build the new roundabout.

Any alternatives considered:

N/A

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: