

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Whiting

Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste

DECISION NO:

18/00038

For publication

Key decision* Yes – Expenditure over £1m

Subject: **A256 - Urgent Road Asset Renewal and Preservation Works**

Decision:

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

- i) the proposed works to extend the life of the majority of this section of the A256 road surface between Sandwich and Whitfield and to replace the road surface in other areas and
- ii) the delegation to 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 scheme in accordance with these recommendations.

Reason(s) for decision:

The A256 is an 'Other Strategic' road in our highway maintenance hierarchy. It also forms part of our Resilient Highway Network, the portion of our 5,400-mile road network that is vital to maintaining economic activity and access to key services during extreme weather emergencies and other major incidents.

It is also likely to form part of the new Major Road Network that the Department for Transport has recently consulted on, a matter which this Committee considered at its 20 March meeting. The A256 is also a key link between the channel ports and Manston in respect of interim lorry parking arrangements. In short, this road is vital to the economy of East Kent, an area of the county that is not otherwise well served by north-south main roads.

As part of our regular mechanical condition surveys and safety inspections, we have identified that the existing road surface on the A256 between the A2 at Whitfield and Sandwich, and the dual carriageway in particular, is nearing the end of its serviceable life. The main risk if left untreated is that aggregate loss will continue and lead to the road surface rapidly failing. If that were to happen, we would need to consider measures such as reducing the speed limit, lane closures and possibly full road closures.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

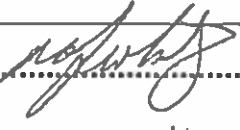
The proposal was discussed and endorsed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 13 July.

At the meeting it was agreed that officers would send details of the works programme to Members of the Cabinet Committee.

Any alternatives considered:

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

None

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signed 

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date 26-07-18

Name: MIKE WHITING