

From: **Barbara Cooper, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport**

To: **Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste**

Decision No: 18/00064

Subject: **A28 Thanet - Road Asset Renewal and Strengthening Works**

**Summary:** This report concerns a project to improve the road surface of the A28 between Birchington and Margate. Funding of £2.5m in 2019/20 has been allocated in the Medium-Term Financial Plan for these works. The project involves the major renewal and strengthening of this road.

**Recommendation(s):** The Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport & Waste is asked to agree:

(i) the proposed works to renew and strengthen the A28 road surface between Birchington and Margate; 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,

as shown at Appendix A.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 This report outlines proposals to proceed with urgent road maintenance work to renew and strengthen the road surface of the A28 in Thanet between Birchington and Margate.

## **2. Financial Implications**

2.1 Funding of £2.5m was allocated for the A28 works during last year's capital funding cycle and is therefore included in 2019/20 of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

## **3. Policy Framework**

3.1 Proceeding with these works is consistent with Kent County Council's new asset management approach. This approach is set out in *Developing our Approach to Asset Management in Highways - 2018/19 – 2020/21* which was considered by this Committee on 31 January 2018 and subsequently adopted and published in February, in order to evidence a Band 3 Incentive Fund rating and maximise Department for Transport capital funding for 2018/19. Implementing that approach contributes to our day-to-day management of

highway maintenance and therefore plays a vital part in delivering Kent County Council's Strategic Statement *Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes*.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 During last year's capital bidding round, funding of £7.5m was allocated for the highest priority unfunded highway sites (high risk issues requiring intervention in the very short term). This programme comprised £3.495m for four sites in 2018/19; £2.925m for thirteen sites in 2019/20 and £1.1m for ten sites in 2020/21. The £2.925m allocated for 2019/20 includes £2.5m for the major renewal and strengthening of the A28 in Thanet, principally the section between Birchington and Margate.
- 4.2 The A28 is an 'Other Strategic' road in our highway maintenance hierarchy. It also forms part of our Resilient Highway Network which is 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 consulted on earlier this year. The MRN will be a new category of road between Highway England's Strategic Road Network and Local Authorities' local roads and this is being set up to put these important roads on a similar investment/improvement planning footing as motorways and trunk roads from 2021/22. Local Authorities will continue to be responsible for maintaining these roads and any funding streams are unlikely to be used for maintenance save major structural renewal.

#### **5. A28 Condition**

- 5.1 As part of our regular mechanical condition surveys and safety inspections, we have identified that the existing road surface on the A28 between Birchington and Margate is nearing the end of its serviceable life. There are also signs of structural weakness in places. If left untreated, the road surface will quickly deteriorate and need regular and numerous pothole repairs.
- 5.2 The road surface needs to be renewed throughout and, in some places, deeper strengthening repairs will be needed. We plan to deliver these works from April 2019 to avoid the summer holiday season. The works will be delivered in five phases and take around two months to complete.
- 5.3 These works will be delivered under our recently awarded Road Asset Renewal Contract with Eurovia. There are no planning or compulsory purchase aspects to this work. There are also no legal or equality implications resulting from these planned works.

#### **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 A large section of the A28 between Birchington and Margate, an economically and strategically important road in East Kent, is at the end of its lifecycle and in danger of rapid failure. This would lead to temporary measures such as speed limit reductions, lane closure and full road closures being implemented to

reduce the risk to road users. It is therefore proposed that this section be renewed and strengthened early in 2019/20.

## 7. Recommendation(s)

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(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,

as shown at Appendix A.

## 8. Appendices and Background Documents

- **Appendix A – Proposed Record of Decision**
- **Appendix B - Indicative Plan of Works**
- **Appendix C**
  - Our Approach to Asset Management in Highways document
  - Implementing Our Approach to Asset Management in Highways document
  - Developing our Approach to Asset Management in Highways - 2018/19 – 2020/21

All three documents available via: <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transport-and-highways-policies/highways-asset-management>

- **Appendix D - EqIA**

## 9. Contact details

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