

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Michael Payne, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport

DECISION NO:

20/00058

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Local Growth Fund Round 3b Third Party Scheme – M2 Junction 5 Improvement Scheme

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport I approve the progression, via KCC's Local Growth Fund arrangements, for the M2 Junction 5 Improvement Scheme; allowing it to progress to the next stages of development and delivery.

To facilitate this, I agree:

- to confirm that KCC will act as the accountable body for the project;
- to enter into a Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding agreement; and
- to enter into legal agreements with the relevant third parties delivering the schemes to transfer the conditions of the LGF spend and project management to them

I also agree to delegate authority to Corporate Director of GET, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance & Procurement, to enter into relevant legal agreements and take other actions necessary to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

As the end of the Growth Deal (March 2021) approaches, a number of projects throughout the SELEP region have experienced difficulty with delivery; and to date £33.396m of funding has been returned to SELEP for reallocation to projects which have demonstrated deliverability by March 2021.

Through this process, an allocation of £1.6m has been made available for the M2 junction 5 improvement scheme. This scheme is being delivered by Highways England and the County Council will transfer the LGF along with the associated spend and project management responsibilities on to the third party for the delivery of the scheme.

This decision will enable a legal agreement to be sealed between the County Council and Highways England. The legal agreement needs to be sealed before the Public Inquiry in August 2020 and prior to the LGF being drawn down and transferred with the KCC contribution to Highways England for the delivery of the project.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Public consultation was carried out 6th September to 17th October 2017 by Highways England.

The consultation report can be found here <https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m2-junction-5-improvements/>

There is a further opportunity for interested parties and stakeholders to comment or object to the proposed scheme following an announcement of a Public Inquiry: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/m2-junction-5-improvements/>

The proposal was discussed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 17 July and they agreed to endorse the proposal.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The options considered for the M2 Junction 5 Improvement Scheme are set out in the business case document which can be accessed here:

M2 Junction 5 (pages 13-15)

<https://www.southeastlep.com/app/uploads/2019/07/M2-J5-LGF-Business-Case-redacted.pdf>

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

None

Michael Payne

21/07/20

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signed

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date