

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Michael Payne

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

DECISION NO:

20/00064

For publication

Key decision*

Yes

Subject: Local Growth Fund– Kent Strategic Congestion Management Programme – A2/A251 Junction Improvement Scheme

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport I approve the progression, via KCC's Local Growth Fund arrangements, for the A2/A251 Junction Improvement Scheme; allowing it to progress to the next stages of development and delivery.

Specifically this comprises approval for:

- i) KCC to act as the accountable body for the project;
- ii) KCC to enter into a Local Growth Fund (LGF) funding agreement;
- iii) KCC to progress all statutory approvals or consents required for the scheme;
- iv) KCC to progress with the necessary land acquisitions required to deliver the scheme;
- v) KCC to carry out public engagement on the scheme;
- vi) KCC to enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the scheme
- vii) The Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport, under the Officer Scheme of Delegations and in consultation with the Corporate Director for Finance and Procurement, to enter into relevant legal agreements and take other actions necessary to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The A2/A251 priority junction provides the primary access for Faversham and eastern Swale to the strategic road network. The junction caters for significant volumes of traffic and is currently operating over capacity in peak periods with serious levels of congestion and delay. This is a constraint to key strategic housing allocations in the Faversham area and to the economic wellbeing of the town.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Initial options were presented for public consultation in April and May 2014 and reported to Swale Transportation Board in June 2014.

The proposed decision was discussed and endorsed by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 17 July 2020.

Any alternatives considered:

Four options were assessed based on key issues including traffic capacity, traffic queueing, pedestrian crossing provision, traffic 'U' turning, land take required, estimated cost and programme and a preferred option identified.

- Option 2b: An elongated roundabout with partial signal control at the A2/B2041 The Mall;
- Option 3: Signalisation of the A2/A251 Ashford Road and A2/The Mall;
- Option 5: Roundabout at the A2/A251 junction; and

- Option 6: Roundabout at the A2/A251 junction and signalisation of the right turn from the A2 to B2041 The Mall.

A variation on Option 3 was selected to be taken forward as the preferred scheme. The Preferred Option was found to provide improvement in junction capacity and to perform better in terms of land take, cost and the avoidance of traffic making U turns.

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

None

Michael Payne
signed

30 July 2020
date