

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Michael Payne

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

DECISION NO:

20/00028

For publication

Key decision*

Yes

Subject:

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, I agree that the highway improvement for the A20 London Road Aylesford Junction can proceed through the next stages of development and delivery including authority to progress statutory approvals and to enter into funding, land and construction contracts.

Specifically to:

- i) give approval to the outline design scheme for the A20 London Road Aylesford in Tonbridge & Malling for development control and land charge disclosures, drawing number A20HR-CAP-HGN-00-DR-C-0043;
- ii) give approval to progress all statutory approvals or consents required for the scheme, drawing number A20HR-CAP-HGN-00-DR-C-0043;
- iii) give approval to enter into land agreements with third parties as necessary;
- iv) give approval to enter into construction contracts as necessary for the delivery of the scheme;
- v) give approval to undertake engagement with all relevant stakeholders as identified in the communication plan; and
- vi) give approval that the Corporate Director for Growth, Environment & Transport, under the Officer Scheme of Delegations and in consultation with the Corporate Director for Finance and Procurement, enter into relevant legal agreements and take other actions necessary to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Maidstone Integrated Transport Plan (MITP) aims to reduce congestion and ease traffic movements through Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling. The scheme will assist in fulfilling the strategic aims of delivering the local housing and employment growth targets.

This element of the MITP is the proposed improvements to the existing signalised junction on the A20 London Road at the junction with Hall Road and Mills Road at the Retail Park entrance. The A20/Mills Road/Hall Road Roundabout is located on the A20 primary route and is in close proximity to the strategic highway; the M20. This junction leads to an industrial and retail area and gives access to potential residential development.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Initial meetings have been undertaken with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Highways England and a steering group formed which continually updates and feeds back progress and concerns.

A virtual Consultation has been agreed and will be launched at the end of July 2020 with specific engagements sessions (if Government Guidelines allow) will be arranged in a locally convenient location to outline the schemes advantages and address concerns of the local community.

The use of social media will play an important role in the dissemination of information. A dedicated email address and 'Twitter' account will be operational for this purpose. Newsletters will be delivered prior to, and during construction and will offer details of specific operations, progress and key dates.

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

Any alternatives considered:

Not progressing the scheme:

Allowing the existing situation to continue is likely to worsen the levels of congestion and delays described above. This will present a constraint to the planned development for the west side of Maidstone Borough and the east of Tonbridge & Malling Borough.

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

None

Michael Payne
signed

7 August 2020
date