

SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD – 14 MARCH 2012

SEVENOAKS CYCLE STRATEGY

Report of the: Director of Kent Highway Services

Status: For Decision

Key decision No

Executive Summary: This report presents the final version of the Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy and seeks members' support to take the plan forward for appropriate approval at KCC and SDC.

This report supports the Key Aim of: the Draft Vision for Kent; Kent County Council (KCC) Local Transport Plan 3; Sevenoaks District Strategy (SDC) for Transport; Sevenoaks Sustainable Community Action Plan (2010-2013).

Chairman Cllr. James London

Head of Service Head of Highway Transportation – Tim Read

Recommendation: That Members support:

- (i) the Strategy; and
- (ii) the plan to take it forward for appropriate approval at both Kent County Council (KCC) and Sevenoaks District Council (SDC)

Introduction

- 1 Kent County Council (KCC), in partnership with Sevenoaks District Council (SDC), has been working on the development of a Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy (SDCS).
- 2 District cycling strategies are vital to the delivery of a well planned local cycle network and are useful tools when trying to secure funding. A number of other districts have produced Cycle Strategies¹ and Kent's Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) includes the objective that all districts in Kent have a Cycling Strategy in place by 2012. The development of a SDSCS is also included in the Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport and the Sevenoaks Sustainable Community Action Plan.
- 3 Board members were made aware of the SDSCS in December 2010 and June 2011 when progress updates were reported to the Board and in September 2011 when

¹ Canterbury, Dover, Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, Ashford, Shepway

approval was sought to undertake a public consultation on the Draft Cycling Strategy.

- 4 This report presents a final Draft of the SDCS and seeks the support of Members to take the Strategy forward for appropriate approval at both KCC and SDC.

Public Consultation:

- 5 Since this matter was previously reported to the Board a full public consultation on the Draft Cycling Strategy has been undertaken. This took place for period of six weeks between October 10th and November 21st 2011. During this time the Draft Strategy was made available on both the KCC and SDC websites along with an electronic questionnaire. Key parties were informed of the consultation period and encouraged to respond via emails and letters. Notices advertising the consultation were also placed on cycles at Sevenoaks Railway Station and Cycle shops.

Responses and Feedback Received:

- 6 In total 48 responses were received. Of these 36 were questionnaire responses and 12 were longer written comments. Overall, the consultation showed good support for the principles of the Strategy, with 89% of those responding to the questionnaire broadly in favour of the actions proposed within the document
- 7 A report summarising all of the responses received during the consultation is available and should members wish to obtain a copy they are advised to contact Rachel Thomas.
- 8 Following the consultation, the Draft Strategy was revised to take account of the comments received. All of the consultation feedback was considered during this process and helped inform the development of the Final Cycling Strategy.

Final Strategy:

- 9 The Final Strategy aims to enable more people to cycle more safely in the district so as to encourage a shift towards more sustainable transport choices and healthy leisure activities. It includes a discussion on the benefits of cycling; a policy background; an examination of existing provision; suggestions for new routes and linkages; suggestions for locations for additional cycle parking; and information on promotion and maintenance.
- 10 The suggestions for new routes and linkages in the Strategy include 1) urban routes which aim to connect residential areas with key services in the three main urban areas in the District, namely Sevenoaks, Swanley and Edenbridge; and 2) a number of attractive longer rural routes aimed at leisure cyclists.
- 11 It should be noted that the suggestions for new routes and linkages are initial outline plans only. Implementing the proposals within the document will depend on securing the necessary funding and detail scheme design and full costings will be undertaken only when funding is secured.

Financial

None as a result of this report

Community Impact and Outcomes

None as a result of this report

Legal, Human Rights etc.

None as a result of this report

Resource (non-financial)

The recommendations are fully resourced by Kent County Council

Value for Money and Asset Management

Not assessed at this time

Equality Impacts

An Equality Impact Screening has been undertaken

Risk Assessment Statement

None prepared at this time

Background Papers:	Sevenoaks Cycle Strategy: Draft for Public Consultation JTB Committee Report 14 th September 2011
	Sevenoaks Cycle Strategy Update Report 15 th June 2011
	Sevenoaks Cycle Strategy Update December 2010
	Sevenoaks Cycle Strategy Summary of Consultation responses received
	Sevenoaks Cycle Strategy Equality Impact Screening

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