

To: Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board
By: KCC Highways and Transportation
Date: 8 June 2023
Subject: Active Travel update
Classification: Information Only

Summary: This report updates Members on Sevenoaks DC/Kent CC's Active Travel Projects:

1. Sevenoaks Town East/West cycle, walking & wheeling route improvements
 2. Otford to Sevenoaks North/South cycle, walking & wheeling route improvements
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1.0 Context

- 1.1 Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) has committed to working towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. They have identified actions to deliver this commitment based around 7 themes, one of which is movement and green travel. Within this, promoting low carbon travel is listed as an action point. Movement also contributes to good mental and physical health. Promoting good mental health and wellbeing is another key District aim.
- 1.2 In April 2022, SDC launched its Movement Strategy. The strategy co-ordinates movement issues across different Council functions and aims to make travel across the District easy, healthy, safe, low-carbon and sustainable. The Movement Strategy explains the key priorities for sustainable movement and transport within the District. This includes reducing the need to travel, promoting active travel, and improved safe cycling infrastructure and public transport services. The aims of the strategy are embedded within and are supported by Council plans and strategies which help to deliver its aims including the Air Quality Action Plan, Sevenoaks Urban Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the new Local Plan.

2.0 Active Travel Fund - Background

- 2.1 Following a successful Tranche 3 bid to Active Travel England, KCC was awarded £1.2m to design and construct the East-West route. The Sevenoaks East-West route provides a new opportunity for residents to move around Sevenoaks using sustainable transport. Further to this, it provides an opportunity to improve and encourage safe cycling in the area. The route links 6 schools in the area and Sevenoaks train station, all of which are key trip generators. The delivery of the route will help to improve local air quality, encourage more cycling journeys and good health of residents. The delivery of the route is an important priority for SDC's ambition and delivery for carbon free travel options and a Net Zero District by 2030. SDC will continue to pursue initiatives which will support our Net Zero ambition, encourage good health and wellbeing and help provide healthy travel choices.

- 2.2 KCC submitted a Tranche 4 bid to Active Travel England in collaboration with SDC. The Otford to Sevenoaks cycle and walking improvements scheme was prioritised as a development scheme with a request for funding of £184,000 to take the scheme through a feasibility and outline design stage and will include a formal consultation.
- 2.3 The Sevenoaks Urban Area LCWIP was finalised in January 2023. A feasibility study and outline design for the Otford to Sevenoaks route will help to determine how this element can be delivered.
- 2.4 It is considered that the North section of the Otford to Sevenoaks route faces less challenges and has the road widths needed for Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20 compliance, so it is pragmatic to focus on this section of the route initially. The South section of the route (Bat and Ball to Sevenoaks Town Centre) faces challenges of on-street parking and historic narrow road widths. Further to this, work on the junction is proposed as part of the current live planning application (22/00512/OUT) at the Sevenoaks Quarry site which proposes to redevelop the site for a mix of uses including up to 800 units, up to 150 units of older persons accommodation, business, retail, leisure and sports uses, and a new primary school. The proposed development requires (and will secure if permitted) significant improvements to the Bat and Ball junction and to the existing pedestrian bridge over the railway line.
- 2.3 KCC was successful in being awarded the full value of the submission for £184,000 with Active Travel England formally announcing the award in May 2023.

3.0 The Current Position – Tranche 3 East-West route

- 3.1 KCC and Sevenoaks District Council have been working with various stakeholders to develop the design of the proposed cycle route. A series of workshops have been held to include members of the cycling community, access groups and the local schools. In addition, a cycle/walkthrough of the route took place in April involving KCC members, SDC members and Town Councillors.
- 3.2 The detailed designs of the route are currently being drawn up, taking into consideration the key points highlighted along the walkthrough and the workshops. Once design proposals have been completed, Sevenoaks District Council will be consulting on the scheme starting 1 June 2023 for a period of 6 weeks. The feedback will be analysed and the completion of the scheme details presented to a future JTB for endorsement to proceed.
- 3.3 Appendix A shows the overall route (two drawings) to be consulted on along with location details.

4.0 The current Position – Tranche 4 – Otford to Sevenoaks route

- 4.1 KCC and SDC are working closely together to commission an initial feasibility and outline design focusing on phase 1 (North section) of the project which is from Otford to the Bat & Ball junction.
- 4.2 Once scheme designs are progressed sufficiently, a public consultation will take place. Local stakeholders will be engaged at the outline design stage.
- 4.3 Appendix B shows the route with the plan taken from the LCWIP Route 1 – map 23.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

1. Sevenoaks – East West route plan 1
2. Sevenoaks – East West route plan 2

APPENDIX B

Map 23 from LCWIP Route 1 Otford to Sevenoaks