

Joint Transportation Board

18 September 2023

Subject: Working Group Update [Active Travel Projects including proposed townwide 20mph scheme] – Update note

Director and Head of Service:

KCC: Tim Read Head of Transportation

Cabinet Member:

KCC: Neil Baker Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Key or Non Key decision: Non Key

Decision Issues:

These matters are within the authority of the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation

Sevenoaks ward(s):

Sevenoaks Town & St John's

Sevenoaks Eastern

Sevenoaks Northern

Sevenoaks Kippington

Dunton Green and Riverhead

Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge

Seal & Weald

Summary and purpose of the report:

This is a report summarising the outcome of the first working group that has met to discuss the District Active Travel projects including the proposal for a town wide 20mph speed limit scheme to proceed.

To Recommend:

Members of the Board are asked to note the contents of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The local member for Sevenoaks Town has previously consulted on a town wide 20mph scheme however there has been several additional representations with regards to the detail of the proposal and some mixed feedback in relation to the timing for this and the roads incorporated, particularly due to the other active travel schemes proposed in the vicinity that are progressing at pace.
- 1.2 At the 8 June 2023 JTB there was some debate about the proposed 20mph town wide 20mph scheme and how it fits within the wider list of active travel projects currently

proposed or at design stage in Sevenoaks. The JTB recommended that *“a new Member Working Group is setup with KCC and SDC Officer support to develop a Consultation Plan for the LCWIP which incorporates the Town 20mph limit.”*

3. Relevant Council policy, strategies or budgetary documents

- 3.1 Sevenoaks' Urban Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) was completed and launched in January 2023.
- 3.2 SDC and KCC have been successful in securing Active Travel England capital and revenue funding to deliver an East West Route, also to further develop the route between Otford and Sevenoaks (Route 1) and Otford to Sevenoaks via Seal (route 6). These schemes all need to be considered in the whole with consideration giving to works that will be inter-related.
- 3.3 SDC's emerging Local Plan prioritises improvements to walking, wheeling and cycling facilities and networks across the District and particularly within the District's three main towns. The Local Plan will undergo a second round of public consultation later this year.
- 3.4 The Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Plan (2023) Policy M1 promotes walking and cycling and supports the removal of barriers to pedestrian and cycle movement across the town. Policy M2 supports the Sevenoaks District Cycling Strategy and Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and provision of additional cycle facilities to support new development.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 An initial public consultation on a proposed town wide 20mph scheme took place between 30 September and 10 November 2022. The full details of the consultation including the process that was followed, the consultation activities undertaken and a full set of results, were report at 13 December 2022 JTB. This resulted in a sub committee group being set up to review further the proposals prior to resubmitting to the 15 March JTB. This meeting resolved to recommend that the scheme proceed to this additional consultation with consideration to the emerging LCWIP. A further report was produced for the 8 June JTB.
- 4.2 The Town Council are intending to launch the second consultation in October 2024 via their standing newsletter with guidance from Kent County Council.

5. Financial

- 5.1 Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) have confirmed they have funding in place to fully fund this further consultation on the proposed 20mph scheme and also have the funding to deliver any scheme that is deemed appropriate subject to KCC approval and consultation feedback. The exact financial position will need to be reviewed once this consultation exercise is complete and any scheme boundaries are drawn/ a precise design can be worked up.
- 5.2 The scheme is not allocated any additional KCC budget to complete and will need to be fully funded by the Scheme promotor (STC). The detailed design stage will include an overall scheme cost estimate and in the case that the existing budget is insufficient the project will be tailored to fit the budget envelope subject to further approvals.

6. Legal

- 6.1 Traffic regulation orders (TROs) have been advertised previously and will be valid for 24 months from 10 November 2022. The consultation results may impact this and in which case additional TROs may be required. There are no other legal implications at this stage.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The working group have agreed that a further Public Consultation will be undertaken, funded by the Town Council, working in Partnership with Kent County Council to fully understand the appetite for a proposed 20mph scheme in Sevenoaks Town Centre. The consultation will capture residents' views on options for how a 20mph scheme may be delivered with particular reference to those roads where the data suggests compliance may be an issue, to avoid the need for retro fitting traffic calming infrastructure which is not appropriate nor funded.
- 7.2 KCC will work with STC to draft and agree the consultation questions. KCC will ensure the working group have sight of the planned questions. The working group will meet again and discuss the outcomes of the consultation.

Contact Officer:

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Background documents and appendices

None

Additional document(s) containing information exempt from publication:

No