

To: Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board
By: KCC Highways and Transportation
Date: 28 November 2023
Subject: Active Travel update (Sevenoaks Town East/West cycle scheme)
Classification: Information Only

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

1. Sevenoaks Town East/West cycle, walking & wheeling route improvements

1.0 Active Travel Fund - Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Members considered a report that presented the results of the public consultation that took place from 1 June to 14 July 2023 regarding the Sevenoaks Town East to West Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Route. Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council (KCC) jointly consulted on proposals for a proposed walking, wheeling and cycling route connecting the East and West of Sevenoaks Town. The project had been led by Officers and a Member steering group, which would continue to meet to address concerns arising from the consultation. The results showed a positive response from residents and stakeholders. The Board was asked to recommend to KCC to proceed with the construction of the scheme.
- 1.3 The Board recommended to KCC that while working closely with Sevenoaks Town Council and landowners specifically to mitigate concerns and get an agreement on a preferred option at locations at Lakeview Road, Bradbourne Park Road and St James' Road, the scheme proceed to detailed design and construction.

2.0 The Current Position – Tranche 3 East-West route

- 2.1 KCC and Sevenoaks District Council have been working with various stakeholders to develop the design of the proposed cycle route further. A Steering Group workshop

took place on 9 November 2023 (consisting of Sevenoaks Town Council, Sevenoaks District Council and Kent County Council elected representatives and staff).

- 2.2 The detailed designs of the route consulted on were discussed further with specific attention to Bradbourne Park Road section as none of the options presented to date were sufficiently majority supported: Option B - preference to retain two-way traffic: slightly more favourable (41%); Option A – one way northbound from junction of Linden Chase (30%) & Option C- none of the above (21%) not as favourable.
- 2.3 A new alternative route utilising a section of the A25, Oakdene Road and St John's Road was brought to the Group and supported as it addressed the issues raised for the Bradbourne Park Road and St James' Road section of the route. The Group agreed to proceed with investigating further this option and would need to do a targeted consultation should this route prove suitable as this was not part of the original consultation.
- 2.4 Appendix A shows the alternative route along the A25 between Oakdene Road and St Johns Road.
- 2.5 Riverhead Parish Council and others raised concerns about the parkland section within Riverhead with main concerns focusing on maintenance, lighting, steepness and width of some sections as well as ecological issues such as the presence of bats. Riverhead Parish Council however are broadly supportive.
- 2.6 KCC is working with the biodiversity team within KCC to address these issues and also working with the Public Rights of Way team to make sure surface treatments are maintainable long term.
- 2.7 KCC continues to discuss with landowners elements of the route that are not part of the public highway such as the section under the railway bridge.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 KCC to arrange a meeting with Active Travel England to gain their support for the alternative route option along A25.
- 3.2 Progress designs along A25 and programme a targeted consultation early next year to inform residents and respondents of the original consultation.
- 3.3 Work up a programme for delivery of the various phases of the project along with detailed design costs as the project will need to be delivered within the allocated funding of £1.2m.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

1. A25 option – Overview
2. A25 option – sheet 1 of 4
3. A25 option – sheet 2 of 4
4. A25 option – sheet 3 of 4
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