

# Maidstone Joint Transportation Board



**16  
January  
2019**

## **A249 Bearsted Road Maidstone Major Infrastructure Project**

<b>Decision Making Authority</b>	Kent County Council/Maidstone Borough Council
<b>Lead Director</b>	Simon Jones
<b>Lead Head of Service</b>	Tim Read
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Russell Boorman/Lee Burchill
<b>Wards and County Divisions affected</b>	Wards: Boxley County Divisions: Boxley
<b>Which Member(s) requested this report?</b>	Committee

### **This report makes the following recommendations:**

That the report be noted.

### **Timetable**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Maidstone Joint Transportation Board	16 January 2019

# A249 Bearsted Road Maidstone Major Infrastructure Project

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides an update in respect of the proposed A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project.
- 1.2 The A249 Bearsted Road Maidstone scheme involves the signalisation and enlarging of the A249 Bearsted Road, A249 Bearsted Road/New Cut Road roundabouts and the widening of the A249 between the 2 roundabouts, including the use of Smart Technology to ease congestion, improve traffic flow and accommodate traffic associated with the Kent Medical Campus Enterprise Zone and growth in the town centre and south Maidstone. A key objective of the scheme is to reduce queueing at peak periods and ease congestion at these junctions to improve journey time reliability.
- 1.3 The A249 Bearsted Road Maidstone project is expected to contribute to improvements in journey time reliability on this major strategic route corridor towards the M20 J7. The scheme will also contribute to the planned introduction of 3000 jobs and construction of 1500 new homes by 2025.
- 1.4 The increased circulatory requires third party land at the Bearsted Road/New Cut roundabout, however this is being 'gifted' by the developer and Kent County Council (KCC) has agreement in writing from the relevant parties. No planning permission is required, and this scheme can be delivered as Permitted Development.
- 1.5 It is intended to start construction in summer of 2019. This allows sufficient time to engage with the local community, engage with relevant stakeholders and still complete the main works by the end of the 2012/21 financial year.
- 1.6 A working group has already been established comprising of key KCC, MBC and Highways England (HE) officers to ensure successful delivery of this project.
- 1.7 All costs associated with the scheme and its construction, currently estimated at £11.399m (including 2017/18 costs), are to be funded through the award of the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) by the Department of Transport (DfT), Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) and Sec106 developer contributions (see below).

£000s	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total
DfT Funding	£5399k	£1000k	£3000k	£9399k
Maidstone Borough Council			£500k	£500k
Third Party Contribution			£1500k	£1500k
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5399k</b>	<b>£1000k</b>	<b>£5000k</b>	<b>£11399k</b>

\* Land gift of £420k is not included in the above total.

## **2. Progress:**

- 2.1 An external consultant, WSP, was engaged in 2017 via the Medway Framework Contract to provide all the necessary resource to complete the outline and detailed design. This was programmed to be completed by December 2018 and was delivered successfully.
- 2.2 Engagement sessions were organised for all affected stakeholders and residents in October/November 2018. These sessions were well attended and were received positively by the majority of those who attended. A distribution list has been collated for those wishing to be kept informed of progress and will receive an electronic copy of the newsletter automatically as well as a paper copy being delivered accordingly.
- 2.3 Feedback received has been recorded and minor alterations to the design are currently being finalised to reflect those comments.
- 2.4 The contract documentation is being prepared and it is envisaged that the tender will be distributed in February/March 2019 with a Tender Award in May 2019.
- 2.5 Construction will commence in the summer of 2019, concentrating on the new access into Newnham Court Shopping Village in the first instance and then moving out to the highway network. Traffic management is yet to be decided, however there are several measures being contained within the tender documents that will mitigate the impact of these works.

## **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 Kent County Council presents this report to Members for information.
- 3.2 KCC will keep Members and the board updated at key milestones throughout the next stages.