

7 December 2021 Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Urgent Update

3 December 2021

Agenda Item 21: Maidstone Authority Monitoring Report

At paragraph 2.39 of the Maidstone Authority Monitoring Report additional text is to be inserted as follows (underlined):

- 2.39 Transport – In total 16% of the actions within the Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) have not been actioned. A total 27% are on track to be actioned and 57% are being appropriately actioned. This has meant there has been an increase in the number of actions categorised as not being actioned due to growing concern at the lack of delivery of the highways schemes identified in the Maidstone Integrated Transport Package (MITP). This is despite Kent County Council having successfully applied for £8.9 million of South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Local Growth Fund (LGF) monies in 2015 towards the delivery of these schemes. Whilst the original intention for the LGF money was to fund delivery of two park and ride schemes within Maidstone; in October 2015, it was agreed not to pursue the park and ride schemes and to focus instead on the delivery of several junction improvements across the borough.

Since then, business cases for each of the 3 phases of works have been presented by KCC to SELEP Accountability Board (2016, 2018 and 2019) to release portions of the LGF allocation. At the April 2019 Accountability Board, an additional £700,000 was awarded to Phase 1 (A20 Ashford Rd/A274 Sutton Road/Willington Street) and a slightly reduced amount of £4.2 million of LGF was approved to Phase 3 of the MITP (A229 Loose Road corridor, A20 London Rd/Hall Rd/Mill Rd). According to SELEP, the expected completion date for the full package of measures is now Autumn 2024.

Therefore, whilst the majority of other sustainable transport measures to support the growth identified in the Local Plan remain broadly on track to be delivered within the time periods identified within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, the MITP schemes are now at risk of being delivered beyond the timeframes identified in the IDP.

Similarly, at the end of paragraph 4.75 of Appendix 1: Maidstone Authority Monitoring Report 2020-2021, additional text is to be inserted as follows:

- 4.75 Of concern is the ongoing delays to delivery of the Maidstone Integrated Transport Package. This comprises a series of junction improvement schemes that seek to alleviate the pressure of additional growth contained within the adopted Local Plan 2017. ~~Funding has been obtained but none of the schemes have been delivered by Kent County Council.~~ Kent County Council successfully applied for £8.9 million of South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) Local Growth Fund (LGF) monies in 2015 towards the delivery of these schemes. Whilst the original intention for the LGF money was to fund delivery of two park and ride schemes within Maidstone; in October 2015, MBC and the Maidstone Joint Transportation Board agreed not to

pursue the park and ride schemes and to focus instead on the delivery of several junction improvements across the borough.

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