

# Maidstone Joint Transportation Board

July  
2024



## Maidstone Integrated Transport Package (MITP)

<b>Decision Making Authority</b>	Kent County Council/Maidstone Borough Council
<b>Lead Director</b>	Haroona Chughtai
<b>Lead Head of Service</b>	Tim Read
<b>Lead Officer and Report Author</b>	Barry Stiff/Lee Burchill
<b>Wards and County Divisions affected</b>	Maidstone Borough including Tonbridge & Malling
<b>Which Member(s) requested this report?</b>	Committee

**This report makes the following recommendations:**

**For Information.** That this report be noted.

### Timetable

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Maidstone Joint Transportation Board – Update Report	30 July 2024

# Maidstone Integrated Transport Package (MITP)

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report provides an update in respect of the major schemes currently in progress within Maidstone and the proposed junction improvements contained within the Maidstone Integrated Transport Package (MITP).

## 2. SCHEME UPDATES:

- 2.1 **A249 Bearsted Road Major Infrastructure Project (Funded through National Productivity Investment Fund):**
  - 2.1.1 The Bearsted Road project is currently paused whilst the financial position of the project is re-assessed. As this scheme is not receiving significant S106 contributions, there is no uplift through indexation and so with all externally funded schemes, any increase in cost and the financial risk of delivering such a scheme sits solely with KCC as the Highway Authority. KCC must have financial approvals and certainty in place to award a construction contract, otherwise it will not come forward, which has been evident with many other schemes across the Country which have been stopped or abandoned due to increasing costs.
  - 2.1.2 KCC have now concluded the enabling works contract that was in place with Colas and the site offices removed.
  - 2.1.3 KCC is still committed to the delivery of the main scheme and therefore we are actively seeking a more cost-effective solution for the construction and are putting an updated set of documents out to the industry to invite new submissions for the works, a process that will take several months.
  - 2.1.4 The eventual programme will need to tie in with other works and available road space as well as agreements with the adjacent landowner. KCC have reduced project construction risks by completing some of the critical offline works in advance and had further detailed engagement with the many utility companies affected by these works to minimise those impacts.
  - 2.1.5 Should the new procurement process provide a viable construction price it is hoped that construction would be able to start in late Spring 2025. When further information is available stakeholders will be updated accordingly.
  - 2.1.6 KCC's consultant is continuing to review the proposals for the M20 J7 project in light of the recently approved revised Local Plan. Modelling work is also being carried out using the Kent Transport Model to ensure the solution is robust. Further engagement is required with National Highways to ensure that all the approvals required can be put in place. It is currently anticipated that construction will be undertaken during 2026.

## **2.2 A20 Coldharbour Roundabout/A20 London Road - Hall Road (LGF Scheme):**

- 2.2.1 The A20 Coldharbour roundabout improvement commenced in February 2024 and is currently on programme to be completed in December 2024. The works are being carried out by Breheny Civil Engineering Ltd.
- 2.2.2 The early phase of the works saw the construction of the off-line section of the roundabout and approach lanes built, as well as Virgin Media and UKPN diversions completed.
- 2.2.3 Subsequent phases have switched to the reshaping of the on-line sections of the roundabout and approach roads, with works being largely being carried out under off-peak lane closures.
- 2.2.4 The new roundabout island has now been formed, which includes underground drainage attenuation crates which will help manage water run-off and mitigate the risk of flooding in the future.
- 2.2.5 Discussions are ongoing with Crown Estate, who own the South Aylesford Retail Park, about land needed for a drainage solution to the recurring drainage problems at the A20/Hall Road/Mills Road junction.

## **2.3 A229 Loose Road junction with the A274 Sutton Road (Wheatsheaf junction)**

- 2.3.1 Following a meeting held on 1 March 2024 with Helen Grant, Helen Whately, KCC Members, MBC Cllrs and residents, Neil Baker, KCC's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport committed to review the closure of Cranborne Avenue for a further 6 months.
- 2.3.2 Further traffic surveys of the Loose Road corridor have been carried out and the results of these are currently being collated by our design consultant, with the findings due to be presented to the KCC Cabinet Member to make a decision on Cranborne Avenue and the final proposal for the Wheatsheaf junction.
- 2.3.3 This decision will be communicated to key stakeholders once made and to the next JTB meeting.

## **2.4 A20 Ashford Road junction with Willington Street (LGF Scheme):**

- 2.4.1 Following the pausing of the Bearsted Road scheme, we are now speaking to KCC's Term Maintenance Contractor Amey about advancing the delivery of this scheme, subject to securing the required road space. A further update on the programme will be provided at the next JTB.

## **2.5 A26 Tonbridge Road junction with Fountain Lane (Developer Funded Scheme):**

- 2.5.1 A comprehensive design review process for the dual roundabout concept scheme has now been completed and this has highlighted several safety and design related issues that impact on the deliverability of the scheme.
- 2.5.2 The review findings have been carefully evaluated by officers and an initial briefing is being prepared to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, ahead of a formal update of next steps to local councillors and the JTB.