

Maidstone Borough Council

Environment and Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 19 April 2011

Transport Modelling Update

Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Officer

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Local Development Framework (LDF) is the set of policies that determines where and how development takes place in Maidstone. Working within the developing parameters of the LDF, Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) and the emerging Core Strategy the Environment and Transportation Committee have sought to scrutinise the applicable areas within their remit; Public Transport, Parking and Highways throughout the Municipal Year 2010-11 in relation to this. The Committee has focused particularly on Car Parks and the Park and Ride taking a holistic approach to the transport issues that face Maidstone. They have looked to balance the notable problems like congestion with the need for economic growth in an attempt to find solutions that offer growth and sustainability for Maidstone to fulfil their role and feed into the decision making and policy development process.
- 1.2 On 16 March 2011 an all Member workshop took place to examine transportation matters and the Transport Modelling work carried out to date by Jacobs.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the update from Flo Churchill, Interim Head of Core Strategy Development, on the Transport Modelling workshop to gain an understanding of future opportunities to be involved in this process.

3. Background information

- 3.1 Transport Planning is carried out across the authority and in partnership with Kent County Council as the Highways authority.
- 3.2 A number of issues and priorities were discussed in the Transport Modelling Workshop. The feedback has now been collated (Appendix A) and highlights the following areas:
 - The provision of additional High Speed Train Service from Maidstone West to London has raised questions from Members about additional parking facilities needed to utilise this;

- There needs to a consensus on the assumed Park and Ride model that will be adopted and the position that is subsequently reached on Car Parking;
- The transport needs of rural areas in the borough need to be considered; and
- The funding constraints and 'creative and constructive' approaches to pursuing new funding streams.

3.3 Ms Churchill explains in her feedback summary (Appendix A) that there is a need to ensure 'any solutions that Members may decide upon fits with the strategies that KCC are adopting as part of their Local Transport Plan. Any Transport Study produced to support the Core Strategy should also attempt to gain endorsement from KCC as the Highways Authority via either approval from the Joint Transport Board or the KCC management team and direct to KCC cabinet.'

4. Impact on Corporate Objectives

4.1 Considering the feedback and understanding the future input required from members in the transport modelling process should help to deliver the Council's objectives for the Borough to be a place to achieve prosper and thrive and a place with efficient and effective public services.