

## **Maidstone Borough Council**

### **Planning, Transport and Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Tuesday 22 July 2014**

#### **Review – Transport in Maidstone Borough – Alternatives to using a car Cycling and Walking**

**Report of:** Tessa Mallett, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 At their meeting of 9 June 2014 the Planning, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a working group to look at ways of reducing congestion in Maidstone town.
- 1.2 The working group met on 17 June 2014 to scope their review and presented a scoping document at the meeting of 24 June 2014 (attached as **Appendix A**).
- 1.3 The Committee agreed to split the review into three parts:
  - Cycling and walking;
  - Rail services;
  - Bus services.
- 1.4 The Committee agreed to use the meeting of 22 July 2014 to invite witnesses to provide evidence for part one of the review – Cycling and Walking.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members interview:
  - James Gower – cycling enthusiast who sent a suggestion via Twitter for the Committee to review congestion in the town
  - Tay Arnold – Cycling Transport Planner, Kent Highways, Kent County Council
  - Colin Finch - Senior Public Rights of Way Officer, Kent County Council
  - Bartholomew Wren - Economic Development Officer Regeneration and Transport, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
  - Sarah Shearsmith – Community Development Team Leader, Maidstone Borough Council - Agenda item 9
  - Tim Hapgood - Transport Consultant, Spatial Policy Team, Maidstone Borough Council – Agenda item 10

Details of the questions sent to each of the above witnesses to help them prepare is attached as **Appendix B**.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee agreed to review transport in Maidstone with a view to looking at ways of easing congestion in the town.
- 3.2 The witnesses invited are able to provide evidence to the Committee to help them fulfil the agreed objectives for part one of this review:

Part One - Cycling and Walking:

- Identify cycling and walking groups in the Borough;
- Establish what work is/has already been done regarding the promotion of cycling and walking;
- Identify and make recommendations on how Maidstone Borough Council can work to increase the use of cycling and walking in the Borough to help ease congestion.

### **4. Impact on Corporate Objectives**

- 4.1 The Committee will consider reports that deliver against the following Council priority:
  - For Maidstone to have a growing economy – a transport network that supports the local economy;
  - For Maidstone to be a decent place to live – continues to be a clear and attractive environment for people who live in and visit the Borough.
- 4.2 The Strategic Plan sets the Council's key objectives for the medium term and has a range of objectives which support the delivery of the Council's priorities. Actions to deliver these key objectives may therefore include work that the Committee will consider over the next year.