



Agenda

Meeting: **Folkestone and Hythe Joint Transportation Board**
Date: **26 February 2024**
Time: **6.00 pm**
Place: **Remote Meeting**

To: **The members of the Folkestone & Hythe Joint Transportation Board**

The Board will consider the matters listed below at the date and time shown above. The meeting is open to the press and public and will be streamed live at bit.ly/YouTubeMeetings

Members of the Board who wish to have information on any matter arising on the Agenda which is not fully covered in these papers are requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Chairman or appropriate officer.

1. **Apologies for absence**
2. **Declarations of interest (Pages 3 - 4)**

Members of the Board should declare any discloseable pecuniary interest or any other significant interests in any item/s on this agenda.

3. **Minutes (Pages 5 - 8)**

To consider and approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2023.

4. **Proposed parking restrictions 2024 - FHDC (Pages 9 - 12)**

During the year parking restrictions have been proposed to the council. This report outlines the areas where restrictions would help to improve traffic flow, safety margins and resolve parking problems.

5. **Highways Forward Works Programme 2023/24 - KCC (Pages 13 - 28)**

Queries about the agenda? Need a different format?

Contact Jake Hamilton – Tel:
Email: committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk or download from our
website
www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

This report updates Members on the identified schemes approved for construction.

6. **Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan and National Bus Strategy - Information only (Pages 29 - 40)**

This report provides an update on Kent's response to the National Bus Strategy (NBS). The report recaps on the history of the NBS, explains how this links to Kent's related Enhanced Partnership (EP) and Bus Service improvement Plan (BSIP), provides a progress report on the 23/24 BSIP programme and identifies the latest updates to the Government's NBS agenda.

7. **Traffic Management for Former Smith's Medical Site Development in Hythe - Discussion**

This item has been included in the agenda at the request of board members.

Members are asked to discuss the traffic management for former Smith's Medical site in Hythe.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

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Minutes

Folkestone and Hythe Joint Transportation Board

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date	Monday, 20 November 2023
Present	Councillors Polly Blakemore, Tony Cooper (In place of Connor McConville), Alan Martin and John Wing (Vice-Chair), Dylan Jeffrey (Chair), Jenni Hawkins, Rory Love, Susan Carey, Jackie Meade and Tony Hills.
Apologies for Absence	Councillors Connor McConville and Tim Prater.
Officers Present:	Fred Miller (Transportation Lead Specialist), Andrew Rush (Chief Officer Place & Regulatory Services) and Paul Thompson (District Highways Engineer) and James Bowan (KCC Highway Manager of Folkestone & Hythe).
Others Present:	None.

12. **Appointment of Chair**

Kent County Council (KCC) have appointed Councillor Dylan Jeffrey as Chair for the municipal year 2023/2024.

13. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

14. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 were submitted, approved, and signed by the Chair.

15. **Highways Forward Works Programme: 2022/23 and 2023/24 - KCC**

Members were provided with a report which updated and summarised schemes that have been programmed for delivery in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Members raised several points, including:

- The impact storm Ciaran had on parts of the district. Issues were raised around the drainage system and surface water flooding to tree's down across the district. Members thanked officers for their work during and post storm Ciaran.
- Members raised issues around street lighting across the district, from the new developments in Shorncliffe Heights, to Jeffersone Lane and Dangerous. Members also asked for an update from the district council on the process of transferring current streetlights to LED lights.
- Members discussed transportation safety measures and casualty reduction scheme; it was asked as to whether members could have an update regarding the Levelling Up Fund in Folkestone Town Centre at the next JTB meeting. Members also highlighted several specified roads in the district that they felt needed addressing and were asked to email officers directly with the details.
- Members made comments to page 17 of the report, Appendix E. They were happy to see Cheriton High Street/Cheriton Approach was still marked as ongoing.
- When discussing Bridge Works (Appendix F) members asked officers whether there were any planned works on the railway bridge at central station in Folkestone? And if so, whether the current artwork could be stored and re-installed once work had been completed.
- Members asked if there was a time scale for appendix G, Cheriton Garden Avenue? KCC members responded to advise they believe there is still much technical/planning work to be done first. KCC Officer, James Bowan advises that his is already chasing this item.
- Members asked whether the reports going forward could include an end date.

Officers responded to several comments raised by members, including:

- Members were made aware that the weekend following the commencement of storm Ciaran, officers received approximately 40 emergency calls over a 36-hour period just in the Folkestone and Hythe District area alone. These calls related to trees and flooding. KCC officers were in constant communication with Folkestone and Hythe's cleansing team.
- Paul Thompson, Transportation Specialist updated members on the districts progress of transferring streetlights to LED. He also advised that 55 of these lights are required to go through UK Power Network.
- Members were asked to email officers directly with specific issues relating street lighting and road issues.
- Officers were unaware as to whether future work was to be carried out on the railway bridge at central station, however, this will be raised with the structural engineering team at KCC.
- Officer will check as to whether an end date can be incorporated within reports going forward.

16. **Proposed Parking Restrictions - FHDC**

Members were provided with a report which setup the parking restrictions that have been proposed to the council. The report outlined the areas where restrictions would help to improve traffic flow, safety margins and resolve parking problems.

The Chair provided the committee with points raised by Councillor Tim Prater in his absence. These points were in relation to 2.1 and 3.2 of the report:

- 2.1 The Undercliff is a limited use road, but very narrow and parking in those locations blocks emergency vehicle access in what is effectively a steep access cul-de-sac. Residents would welcome the restrictions and there is no loss of "parking spaces" that can reasonably be used, and a marginal loss of ones that should not.
- 3.2 Sandgate High Street / Military Road the double yellow lines at that location are always parking with vehicles "just stopping" despite the line restriction and proximity to the junction, making the junction dangerous to all arriving at it. A no stopping restriction would give enforcement officers something they could do to tackle the issue, where it seems they currently cannot.

Members raised several points, including:

- Members made comments to 3.1 of the report, Harbour Approach. It was said that the whole area around Harbour Approach had parking issues. District Members made KCC member aware that they are potentially looking to ask KCC whether clamping could be brought in as a deterrent. Members also asked for consideration be taken for individual with blue badges.
- A concern was raised was raised for the local business if the loading bay was removed.

The Chair thanked Folkestone and Hythe District Council for the free parking offered over the Christmas Period. [More details.](#)

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Agenda Item 4

JTB/23/09

Proposed Parking Restrictions for JTB February 2024

A report by the FHDC Highway Engineer to the Joint Transportation Board.

1. Introduction

During the year parking restrictions have been proposed to the council. This report outlines the areas where restrictions would help to improve traffic flow, safety margins and resolve parking problems.

Proposed Parking Restrictions

2. Footway and verge parking ban

2.1 Octavian Drive and Ridgeway, Lympne [Photos 1 & 2]

Request via Cabinet Member for Transport following reports of footway parking issues outside Lympne Primary School to help combat regular footway parking causing pedestrians to walk into road or to walk onto garden lawns.

3. Restricted Parking Zone

3.1 Coronation Parade, Folkestone [Photo 3]

A request to prevent vehicles parking along past the locking gate at The Stade and onto Coronation Parade. This type of restriction can be used where installing painted lines on the ground could be an issue.

4. Motorcycle parking

4.1 New Street, Folkestone [Photo 4]

A request from a resident to assist with motorcycle parking as when parked in between motorcars they are not utilising space in the most efficient way. Therefore consideration is made to convert the last 5.5m of parking space for solo motorcycles only.

5. Loading Ban

5.1 Coolinge Lane, Sandgate [Photo 5]

A request from the school to assist with vehicles being left on the existing no waiting restrictions near the school. A loading ban will be more visual by means of the kerb flashes and act as a deterrent.

6. Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that:

4

6.2 Traffic Regulation Orders are made or amended for the above proposals later in the financial year. Before a TRO is made, the regulations require statutory consultations with all affected persons.

6.3 Any objections to the TROs are reported to the Cabinet Member for Transport to consider and decide on whether a proposal should be progressed.

Paul Thompson

Highways Engineer

paul.thompson@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



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Agenda Item 5

JTB/23/08

To: Folkestone and Hythe Joint Transportation Board

By: KCC Highways and Transportation

Date: 26th February 2024

Subject: Highways Forward Works Programme:2023/24

Classification: Information Only

Summary: This report updates Members on the identified schemes approved for construction

1. Introduction

This report provides an update and summarises schemes that have been programmed for delivery in 2023/24.

In summer 2021 Kent County Council published a Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP), which included, as Appendix C, a five-year Forward Works Programme for the years 2021/22 to 2025/26. This reflected the need to move away from annual programmes and to consider asset management activity a multi-year one.

The first part of the programme concerned the two years 2021/22 - 2022/23. Around half of the schemes included in that programme have now been delivered, and as a result we have now produced a new programme covering the years 2022/23 - 2023/24. As before, most of the sites included in this programme have already been verified by our engineers.

The second part of our programme related to years three to five of our five-year programme (2023/24 - 2025/26). This too is in need of revision to cover the years 2024/25 – 2026/27, and the work required to do this is currently in progress. As before, our new years three to five programme will be largely based on data from our asset management systems, so may be subject to more changes as the schemes are verified.

This programme is subject to regular review and may change for a number of reasons including budget allocation, contract rate changes, inflationary pressures such as material price increases, conflicting works, and to reflect our changing priorities. The programme and extent of individual sites within the programme may also be revised following engineering assessment during the design phase, and additional sites may be added or others advanced if their condition deteriorates rapidly so that we need to react in order to keep the highway in a safe and serviceable condition.

Further information about how we manage our highway infrastructure, including our county-wide five-year forward works programme, may be found on our website:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/transport-and-highways-policies/managing-highway-infrastructure>

In addition to planned maintenance of our highway assets, this report includes transportation and safety schemes, developer funded works, Combined Members Grant schemes, and planned maintenance of public rights of way.

Road, Footway & Cycleway Renewal and Preservation Schemes – see Appendix A

Drainage Repairs & Improvements – see Appendix B

Street Lighting – see Appendix C

Transportation and Safety Schemes – see Appendix D

- **Casualty Reduction Measures**
- **Externally Funded Schemes**

Developer Funded Works – see Appendix E

Bridge Works – see Appendix F

Traffic Systems – see Appendix G

Combined Members Grant – Member Highway Fund – see Appendix H

Street Works – See Appendix I

Conclusion

1. This report is for Members' information.

Contact Officers:

The following contact officers can be contacted on **03000 418181**.

Pauline Harmer	Senior Highway Manager East Kent
James Brown	Folkestone and Hythe Highway Manager
Alan Casson	Strategic Asset Manager
Earl Bourner	Drainage Asset Manager
Helen Rowe	Structures Asset Manager
Sue Kinsella	Street Light Asset Manager
Toby Butler	Traffic Operations and Technology Manager
Jamie Hare	Development Agreements Manager
Nikola Floodgate	Road Safety and Active Travel Group Manager

Appendix A – Road, Footway and Cycleway Renewal and Preservation Scheme

The delivery of these schemes is weather dependent; should it prove not possible to carry out these works on the planned dates, new dates will be arranged and the residents will be informed by a letter drop to their homes.

Road Asset Renewal Schemes – Contact Officer: Byron Lovell			
Road Name	Parish/Town	Extent of Works	Current Status
A259 Sandgate Esplanade	Dymchurch	Castle Bay to Princes Parade	Completed
A259 Scanlons Bridge	Hythe	Resurfacing high friction surface area	Completed
A259 Hythe Road	Dymchurch	High Street to Burmarsh Road	Completed
A259 Churchill Avenue	Folkestone	<u>Retexturing</u> 100m from Canterbury Road Roundabout	Completed
Station Road	Snargate	<u>Retexturing</u> 100m north of junction with Arrowhead Lane	Completed
A20 Main Road	Sellinge	Ashford district boundary to Moorestock Lane	To be programmed summer 2024
Road Asset Preservation Schemes - Contact Officer: Aaron Divall			
Micro Surfacing			
Road Name	Parish/Town	Extent of Works	Current Status
Forge Hill	Acrise	Acris Park Road to A260 Canterbury Road	Completed
Aerodrome Road	Hawkinge	Harvel Lane to Elvington Lane	Completed
Surface Dressing			
Road Name	Parish/Town	Extent of Works	Current Status
Melon Lane	Ivychurch	Whole Road	Completed
Pickney Bush Lane	Newchurch	Whole Road	Completed
Ivychurch Road	Ivychurch	Middle Section between MA and SD	Completed
Retread (recycling and re-laying the existing surface material before applying a surface treatment)			
Road Name	Parish/Town	Extent of Works	Current Status
Newchurch Road	Newchurch	Newchurch 30mph to Newchurch Bridge	Completed

Footway/Cycleway Asset Renewal & Preservation Schemes - Contact Officer: Neil Tree			
Road Name	Parish/Town	Extent of Works	Current Status
The Green	Lydd	<u>Footway Preservation</u> Full Extent	Postponed until summer 2024 season.

Appendix B - Drainage

Drainage Repairs & Improvements - Contact Officer Earl Bourner			
Road Name	Parish / Town	Description of Works	Current Status
Horn Street	Hythe	Cleansing completed on the 8-8-23. Gully to be replaced with a chamber & 1 new 750mm gully pot to be installed.	Completed
Canterbury Road Service Road	Hawkinge	Deep bore of existing soakaway/ installation of additional soakaway	Completed
Dymchurch Road/ Station	New Romney	Repair of defects identified during cleansing	Main work completed but some minor additional work identified and to be passed to contractor.
Sandgate High street	Sandgate	Investigation work following CCTV of assets in vicinity of No 84.	Completed
Seabrook Road	Hythe	Replacement of damaged brick gully	Completed
Langport Road	New Romney	Investigation following cleansing	Underway 23-1-24 (2 days)
Moorstock Lane	Sellindge	Replacement of 18m of damaged pipework	Due to commence 29-1-24 for 4 days

Appendix C – Street Lighting

Structural testing of KCC owned streetlights has identified the following as requiring replacement. A status of complete identifies that the column replacement has been carried out. Programme dates are identified for those still requiring replacement.

Street Lighting Column Replacement – Contact Officer Sue Kinsella			
Road Name	Location	Description of Works	Status
Hillside Street	Hythe	2 no streetlights awaiting painting	Completed
The Old High Street	Folkestone	Replacement of 1 no streetlight	Works Programmed for completion by end of March 2024
Sandgate Esplanade	Sandgate	Replacement of 1 no streetlight	Works Programmed for completion by end of March 2024
Military road	Sandgate	Replacement of 1 no streetlight	Works Programmed for completion by end of March 2024
Cheriton Road	Folkestone	Replacement of 1 no streetlight	Works Programmed for completion by end of March 2024

Appendix D – Transportation and Safety Schemes

Appendix D1 – Integrated Transport Schemes

All other LTP funded non-casualty reduction schemes

Integrated Transport Schemes			
Location	Parish	Description of Works	Current Status

Appendix D2 – Active Travel funded Projects

Active Travel funded projects <i>Contact Officer Jamie Watson</i>			
Scheme Name	Parish	Description of Works	Current Status
Cheriton – Radnor Park Active Travel Improvements Tranche 2	Folkestone	Walking, Wheeling and Cycle improvements from Cheriton High Street east to Radnor Park.	Detailed design is currently underway. Proposed scheme has been sent to Active Travel England for technical approval and to apply for an extension to the programme. A workshop will be set up with KCC Members to discuss the current plans following a detailed design review.

Appendix D3 – Casualty Reduction Measures

Identified to address a known history of personal injury crashes. The sites below are crash cluster sites.

Casualty Reduction Schemes			
Location	Parish	Description of Works	Current Status
Lydd Road j/w B2075 Old Romney (Hammonds Corner)	Old Romney	Road safety improvement scheme. Installation of a roundabout.	Surveys and junction modelling complete. Detailed design for the installation of a roundabout complete. No funding for construction at present.
22-FH-CRM-294 B2034 Cheriton Road junction with Cherry Garden Avenue	Folkestone	Junction reconfiguration (Traffic Signal controlled)	Proposed scheme is currently under review and further investigations are being undertaken
22-FH-CRM-291 A260 Canterbury Road junction with Alkham Valley Road	Folkestone	Junction refiguration – feasibility (design, modelling, and consultation) (civils in future years)	Currently in design

Appendix E – Developer Funded Works

Developer Funded Works (Section 278 Agreement Works) – Contact Officer: Dean Heynes				
Scheme Name	Mastergov File Ref No	Parish	Description of Works	Current Status
Stone St Old Stone Gate Farm	Ref: 3285	Stelling Minnis	Widening of carriageway and formation of right turn lane for new development	Works Complete, In maintenance period. Remedial works agreed, waiting for timetable Ongoing
Sellindge A20 Phase I	Ref:3066	Sellindge	Road narrowing, site entrance to new Section 38, zebra crossing, new cycleway/footway and speed reduction to 30mph	Complete, maintenance period till March 2022 Stage III Safety Audit to be carried out 11 th Nov Works agreed, waiting on contractor program
Sellindge A20 Phase II	Ref:3064	Sellindge	Road narrowing, site entrance to new Section 38, zebra crossing by school, new cycleway/footway and speed reduction to 30mph	As Above
Cheriton High Street	Ref: 3052	Cheriton	Tesco/Horn Street, traffic lights, slip lane to Horn Street and surfacing of carriageway	Complete, in Maintenance period Remedials carried out end Oct, due for sign off from lighting Clear Channel to price bus stop installation and agreement from Developer
Cheriton High Street/Cheriton Approach	Ref: 3053	Cheriton	New traffic lights and re alignment of junction forming a right-hand lane into Cheriton	Complete in maintenance period Developer looking into signals, Ongoing
Jointon Road, Folkestone	SH3344	Folkestone	Entrance to new housing development	In Maintenance
Folkestone Sea Front Development	SH3328	Folkestone	Re-alignment of carriageway and foot way for new development.	On site works commenced May 2020. First Phase in Maintenance

JTB/23/08

Cockreed Lane	SH003094	New Romney	New footway adjacent new private development	Ongoing Developer LMO
Royal Military Ave	SH3067	Cheriton	Modification of entrance to new development	In Maintenance
Cockreed Lane	SH3070	New Romney	Resurfacing to whole road, linking two residential developments	Complete, waiting for speed reduction to be implemented
The Nursey, West Road	SH3071	Cheriton	New entrance to residential development	Under construction
Martello Lakes, Phase 3, Dymchurch Road roundabout	SH3072	Hythe	Minor works and entrance prior to new roundabout	In maintenance period May 23 In Maintenance
Cornwallis Avenue	SH3073	Folkestone	New entrance to residential development	Complete in maintenance
French House, Aldington Road	SH3074	Lympne	Widening of carriageway to accommodate right turn lane into new development, including new bell mouth	Tech review complete, finalising agreement
Aroedrome Rd Hawkinge	SH003086	Hawkinge	Road closure due to deep drainage and formation of entrance to new development	Complete in maintenance

Appendix F – Bridge Works

Bridge Works – Contact Officer: Helen Rowe			
Road Name	Parish/Town	Description of Works	Current Status
Derville Road	Lydd	Derville bridge (2581) - bridge strengthening	Second round D&C. Construction Planned for Mid-Late 2024.
Wenhams Lane	Old Romney	Yoakes (709) - bridge refurbishment	Construction planned for 12 th Feb 2024.
Hook Wall	Brookland	Woolpack bridge (667) - bridge reconstruction	Completed Sep 2023. Scheme to be closed.
Green Lane	Hythe	Green Lane Culvert (3413) - culvert lining	In design stage. Planned Summer 2024
Mountain Lane	Ivychurch	Grove Yard Bridge (739) – Culvert reconstruction	Construction planned 19 th Feb 2024.

Appendix G – Traffic Systems

There is a programme of scheduled maintenance to refurbish life expired traffic signal equipment across the county based upon age and fault history. The delivery of these schemes is dependent upon school terms and holiday periods; local residents, businesses and schools will be informed verbally and by a letter drop of the exact dates when known.

Traffic Systems - Contact Officer: Toby Butler		
Location	Description of Works	Current Status
A259 Dymchurch Road near Portland Road, Hythe (14-0024)	Refurbish existing traffic signal-controlled crossing and convert to near-sided pedestrian facilities	Completed November 2023
A2034 Cherry Garden Avenue / Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone (14-0967)	Upgrade of existing junction and adding MOVA control	Programmed for February 2024

Appendix H - Combined Members Grant programme update

Member Highway Fund programme update for the Folkestone and Hythe District.

The following schemes are those, which have been approved for funding by both the relevant Member and by Haroona Chughtai, Director of Highways and Transportation. The list only includes schemes, which are

- in design
- at consultation stage
- about to be programmed
- recently completed on site.

The list is up to date as of 6th February 2024.

The details given below are for highway projects only. This report does not detail

- contributions Members have made to other groups such as parish councils
- highway studies
- traffic/ non-motorised user surveys funded by Members.

More information on the schemes listed below can be found by contacting the Highway Manager for the Folkestone and Hythe District, James Bowen.

No schemes

JTB/23/08

Appendix I – Street Works

Please note that this list is accurate at the time of running the report and is subject to cancellations and additions. Report highlighting all works in Folkstone & Hythe District that require road closures with a duration of 5+ days.

For information on all In-progress and proposed works please visit: <https://one.network/>

Road/Street Name	Area	Promoter	Proposed start date	Proposed end date	Description of work	Permit Condition
Canterbury Road	Folkestone	Affinity Water - South East	08/04/2024	12/04/2024	Mains Rehabilitation Works	NCT02a - Activities to take place 0800hrs & 1630hrs onsite working - NCT07a - Part Road Closure - Closed At Junction Black Bull Road - Diversion Route A259 Canterbury Road - A260 Hill Road - A260 Dover Road - Canterbury Road - NCT11b - Residents & Local Business To Be Warned Of Works - Advance Warnings To Be Placed On Site Prior To Works Start. Also Stagecoach Bus Co to be notified of works.
Risborough Lane	Folkestone	Southern Gas Networks PLC	08/04/2024	03/05/2024	Abandon 109M of 8" CI, 2M of 4" CI and replace with 109M OF 180MM, 1M of 125MM open cut and insertions connections and services	NCT05a - Where FW closure pedestrians to use other FW or walkway within road closure NCT07a - Road closure required due to location of gas mains/connections/services with insufficient road width for passing vehicles, Phase 1 Cherrybrook Road to Heritage Road. Phase 2 Heritage Road to Risborough Way. NCT10a - Open cut & Insertion NCT11b - . Advanced warning signs 2 weeks before works start. Advanced letter drop, notification to bus company, notification to Parish council and businesses.
Coast Drive	Lydd On Sea	Southern Gas Networks PLC	17/06/2024	26/07/2024	Abandon 22m of 6"CI and Lay 22m of 125mm PE LP, Open cut trench to lay new main, 2 x Services, with works to The	NCT02b - Extended working hours/weekend working where necessary, Saturday working 08:00 - 16:00hrs NCT05a - Where FW closure pedestrians to use other FW or walkway within road closure

JTB/23/08

					Parade	NCT07a - Road closure required due to location of gas mains/connections/services with insufficient road width for passing vehicles/open cut trench to lay new gas main NCT11b - Advanced warning signs 2 weeks before works start. Advanced letter drop. Notification to Businesses/Bus company. SGN Comms req'd, early comms to include parish council, Lifeboat station and KCC local members for the area.
The Parade	Greatstone	Southern Gas Networks PLC	08/04/2024	26/07/2024	Abandon 798m of 6"CI and Lay 629m of 125mm PE LP, 169m of 90mm PE LP, Open cut trench to lay new gas mains and relay new supplies to properties, mains connections, Services. Works coincide with Coast Drive	NCT02b - Extended working hours/weekend working where necessary, Saturday working 08:00 - 16:00hrs NCT04b - Material and Plant Storage within works area NCT05a - Where FW closure pedestrians to use other FW or walkway within road closure NCT07a - Road closure required due to location of gas mains/connections/services with insufficient road width for passing vehicles/open cut trench to lay new gas main NCT10a - Open cut NCT11b - Advanced warning signs 2 weeks before works start. Advanced letter drop. Notification to Businesses/Bus company. SGN Comms req'd, early comms to include parish council, Lifeboat station and KCC local members for the area.
Wenhams Lane	Old Romney	Kent County Council	19/03/2024	28/05/2024	Re Tendered Strengthening of Yoakes bridge No.709. QUOTE requested	NCT07a - Road Closure Advance Warning Signs & Letter Drop NCT11b - See NCT07a

Legal Implications

1.1.1 Not applicable.

1.2 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.2.1 Not applicable.

1.3 Risk Assessment

1.3.1 Not applicable.

Contacts: Pauline Harmer / James Bowen 03000 418181

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Agenda Item 6

JTB/23/07

To: Folkestone and Hythe Joint Transportation Board (JTB)

By: Kent County Council – Highways & Transportation

Date: 26th February 2024

Subject: Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan and National Bus Strategy Funding Update

Classification: Information Only

Summary: This report provides an update on Kent's response to the National Bus Strategy (NBS). The report recaps on the history of the NBS, explains how this links to Kent's related Enhanced Partnership (EP) and Bus Service improvement Plan (BSIP), provides a progress report on the 23/24 BSIP programme and identifies the latest updates to the Government's NBS agenda.

1 Background & History

- 1.1 In March 2021, the Government published a new National Bus Strategy (NBS) which set out a blueprint for the improvement of all aspects of bus service provision inclusive of both service levels themselves but also extending to infrastructure, ticketing, innovation, information, vehicle, accessibility and environmental considerations.
- 1.2 At the time of publication, Government stated that £3bn would be made available to support the strategy, although this figure was subsequently reduced to £1.2bn, reflecting its use for existing commitments and expenditure linked to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.3 In order to be able to access this funding and to protect existing funding streams, the NBS placed a number of requirements on Kent County Council (KCC) and bus operators. By the end of October 2021, KCC had to publish a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) and by April 2022, KCC and bus operators were required to form Enhanced Partnership Agreements (EPs) governing all bus services in the area and setting out commitments on KCC and operators.
- 1.4 In response to the strategy and to align with its ambitions KCC, in conjunction with operators, submitted its BSIP at the end of October 2021, with a total funding ask of £213m over a three-year period. The submission followed a significant public

engagement exercise and liaison with representatives nominated by each of Kent's Borough Councils. KCC also worked with operators to introduce an EP for the county which came into effect from 1st April 2022. All documents can be found at [National Bus Strategy - Kent County Council](#)

- 1.5 On 4th April 2022, shortly after introducing its EP in line with Government guidance, KCC learnt that it had received an indicative allocation of £35.1m in response to its BSIP. Whilst the allocation was significantly less than the £213m requested and would not deliver the level of ambition contained within Kent's BSIP, wider context is important which showed that, of 79 LTAs which submitted a BSIP, only 31 received any allocation.
- 1.6 There were a number of conditions attached to the indicative funding allocation, including:
 - A requirement that funding was directed to particular initiative areas – namely fares and bus service support for revenue spend and bus priority measures for capital spend.
 - A requirement that funding could not be used to sustain existing unviable commercial or contracted services. Although the rules in this respect were subsequently relaxed, this point is important given wider industry pressures where a number of services had become unviable following reduced patronage, increased parts cost, driver shortages etc following the Covid- 19 pandemic.
- 1.7 Taking into account the above restrictions and working to a tight deadline, KCC submitted a proposal to DfT for how the funding would be utilised in line with its BSIP. Following this engagement, no formal funding offer was received by KCC until February 2023. The delay was attributed to a wide financial review taking place across central Government.
- 1.8 In February 2023, KCC was formally offered two years worth of its original indicative funding allocation, on the condition that an accelerated delivery programme would be progressed (effectively requiring the delivery of two years of Kent's BSIP programme in one financial year). KCC subsequently worked quickly with the DfT to agree this delivery programme which has subsequently seen a range of capital and revenue initiatives progressed during the 23/24 financial year, at a total value of £18.9m. A formal decision was taken by the KCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for the acceptance of the funding and the proposed usage profile.

2. 23/24 Formal Funding Award

- 2.1 The formal award of Tranche 1 funding totalling £18.9m was a positive development for buses in Kent and has allowed the progression of a number of key initiatives to support buses in 2023/24. It is important to note however that the use of the funding is very prescriptive and must be spent on an initiative list agreed through the accelerated award process with DfT. Due to the accelerated nature of the award, there was a need to identify initiatives which had the best chance of

rapid delivery – e.g. bus priority schemes which already had outline designs such as the Rennie Drive bus priority scheme in Dartford. Over 2/3 of funding is capital in nature which places further restrictions on use. A breakdown of the £18.9m allocation can be seen in figure 1.1

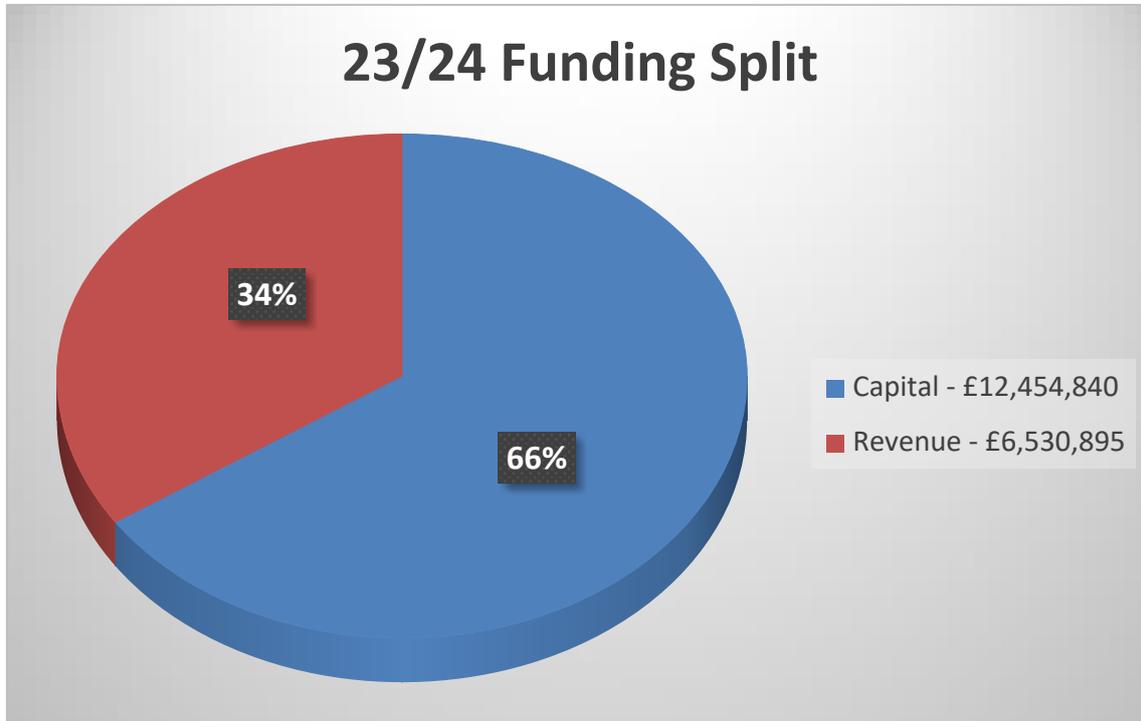


Fig 1.1 – BSIP Tranche 1 Funding

- 2.2 As part of the award, the conditions attached to the original indicative funding allocation (see 1.6) still applied, however KCC was able to negotiate some flexibility around the use of network and fares funding totalling £5m as part of the process allowing KCC to a) hold the cost of the Kent Travel Saver (KTS) pass for the 23/24 academic year and to b) sustain a number of school services across the county which would have otherwise faced commercial withdrawal.
- 2.3 The funding provided through a combination of BSIP and BSIP+ (which is essentially post pandemic bus support) has proved vital in enabling KCC to work with operators and protect parts of the network that were at risk of cancellation. To date, 49 services, including many in Folkestone and Hythe have been protected using this funding as they would not otherwise be operating owing to the ongoing National challenge relating to decreased bus use and increased operating costs that is affecting bus service viability.
- 2.4 The ability to support these services is considered to be a positive and vital use of this element of the BSIP funding. However, the scale of service withdrawals does mean that KCC have had to prioritise its use and has not been able to protect all services at risk of withdrawal. It does also mean that the revenue funding available has been exhausted and there is not currently any capacity to consider future enhancements.

2.5. A summary of services operating in the Folkestone and Hythe District that are now supported through KCC and Government funding pots is included as Appendix A.

3. **23/24 BSIP Programme**

3.1 A list of initiatives funded through BSIP Tranche 1 and their values is included as Appendix B. The majority of initiatives have a countywide benefit but where there is a specific benefit to the Folkestone and Hythe this has been identified.

3.2 Since the funding award, KCC officers have been rolling out the 2023/24 BSIP programme at pace, whilst ensuring that usual corporate and statutory processes have followed.

3.4 Where required, KCC will be working with the DfT through their Project Adjustment Request (PAR) process to make changes to the delivery timescales linked to a number of initiatives to ensure that they can be delivered to completion.

4. **BSIP Tranche 2 Funding (2024/25)**

4.1 In June 2023, the Government outlined that KCC could expect to receive further BSIP funding for 2024/25, totalling £16.1m. This funding will once again be subject to the terms and conditions referenced above and will see approximately 2/3 of the funding available being capital in nature. A Key Decision for the acceptance of the funding was taken by KCC's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport in December 2023 and formal paperwork is now awaited from the DfT in order to facilitate the completion of the award process.

4.2 A proposed usage profile for BSIP Tranche 2 funding was agreed by Kent's Enhanced Partnership Board (EPB). Delivery of the programme will only commence once funding is finalised but can be summarised as follows:

- ***Bus Priority Scheme – Bean Road Tunnels - £9.5m Capital***

The progression of a major bus priority scheme in the Ebbsfleet area, linking Bluewater bus station with the Eastern Quarry development.

- ***Further Bus Priority Measures - £1.5m Capital***

The progression of bus priority measures identified through Kent's bus Punctuality Improvement Partnerships (PIPs). These measures look to address reliability issues identified by operators where a reciprocal benefit can be delivered. Feasibility work and modelling to identify potential sites is taking place utilising tranche 1 BSIP funding.

- ***RTI Screens and Wider Technological Trials at Bus Stops - £600k Capital***

Using a bus stop hierarchy produced as part of BSIP tranche 1, further RTI screens will be delivered at key bus stop locations across Kent. Trials of further

technology (e.g. solar lighting to improve safety at bus stops) will be progressed at some locations.

- ***ANPR Enforcement - £104k – Capital***

The progression of ANPR enforcement at identified sites across the county. This will build on the existing programme of sites being progressed utilising tranche 1 BSIP funding. An update is included as a separate item on this agenda – *“Implementation of the 2004 Traffic Management Act, Part 6 covering enforcement of moving traffic offences”*

- ***Fares and Ticketing initiatives - £3.2m – Revenue***

The progression of a programme of fares and ticketing initiatives across 24/25 including a scheme related to the Kent Traver Saver (KTS) pass.

- ***Multi Operator Ticketing Scheme - £179.5k – Revenue***

The delivery of a countywide multi operator ticketing scheme.

- ***Service Support - £1.0m – Revenue***

Will facilitate the continued support of services supported using BSIP tranche 1 – i.e. identified school services which would have otherwise faced commercial withdrawal.

4.3 In January 2024, the Government released further guidance on BSIPs which will see KCC publish an update to its BSIP in summer 2024.

5. Opportunities for Engagement

5.1 Kent’s approach to BSIP was informed by an extensive public and stakeholder engagement process which led to the proposed initiatives detailed within Kent’s BSIP submission. As Kent’s funding envelope became clearer, this initiative programme was evolved to ensure that it was deliverable given the funding and timescales available but that it was also in line with the initial engagement process.

5.2 As part of the establishment of its Enhanced Partnership Schemes, KCC established a meeting hierarchy to ensure statutory compliance and to offer continued opportunities for engagement.

5.3 An Enhanced Partnership Board (EPB) is in operation which works to a formal process established by the DfT, has representation from both statutory partners (KCC and operators) and makes decisions on changes to content within Kent’s EPs.

- 5.4 Under the EPB are Enhanced Partnership Scheme Monitoring Groups (EPSMGs) which are in operation for each EP area – East Kent, West Kent and Kent Thameside. All Districts (through a representative nominated by the District concerned) in the relevant EP area are invited to these meetings. EPSMG meetings provide an opportunity for updates on the BSIP and for raising suggestions for new / changes to commitments in Kent's EPs.
- 5.5 KCC and operators have also committed to supporting more localised dialogue with District Councils through District Focus Groups which we have suggested that Districts might want to form. The agenda, frequency, and formality of these are for Districts to determine but they are thought of as a forum to discuss more local matters affecting bus, such as planning developments, parking issues and other operational matters.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 This report is provided to Members for information.

Contact Details:

Kent County Council:

Dan Bruce:
EP and Infrastructure Manager

Steve Pay
Public Transport Planning and Operations
Manager

Tel: 03000 418181
Email – kccnbs@kent.gov.uk

Appendix A:

Local Services currently receiving KCC / Government support:

Service No.	Route	Days of Operation
91	Dover - Alkham - Folkestone	Mon-Sat
553	Brookland - Rye	SDO
18	Hythe - Canterbury	Mon-Sat
18A	Ashford - Canterbury	SDO
11/11A/11B	Lydd - New Romney - Ashford	Mon-Sat
BS1	Greatstone - Brockhill Park School	SDO
11/11A/11B	Lydd - New Romney - Ashford	Mon-Sat
975/73	975 – Hawkinge to Folkestone/ 73 – Folkestone to Park Farm AM	M-F
972	972 – Hawkinge to Brockhill Park AM	SDO
973	973 – Folkestone to Hawkinge PM	SDO
974	974 – Folkestone to Hawkinge PM	SDO
971	971 – Folkestone to Lympne PM	SDO

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Appendix B – 23/24 BSIP Initiative Programme - Revenue

Spend Area and Scheme	Value	Comment
Bus Priority – Feasibility	£250k	Funding to support feasibility studies for potential bus priority schemes. Identification of potential schemes using modelling work and operator feedback.
Fares and Ticketing: KTS Price Hold	£2.5m	Funding to hold the Kent Travel Saver pass at a cost of £450 for the 23/24 academic year. Initiative complete.
Fares and Ticketing: Promotions	£500k	Delivery of fares promotions over 2023/24 including a free travel weekend (June 2023), free travel for low income families in receipt of free school meals in summer 2023 and earlier travel for Older and Disabled Persons pass holders. Initiative complete.
Fares and Ticketing: Ticketing Trial	£100k	Delivery of a multi operator ticketing trial in Swale area. Initiative complete.
Fares and Ticketing: ETM Grant	£195,895	Grant scheme to enable small - medium sized operators to upgrade their ticket machines to those capable of accepting smarter payment - i.e. contactless and tap on / tap off. Initiative to be rolled to 24/25 to align with national multi operator ticketing scheme.
Network: Planning Tool	£50k	Funding to secure a network planning tool (web based but hosted externally to kent.gov.uk) to aid the planning of bus services. Initiative complete.
Network: Service Support	£2.5m	Funding to sustain bus services. Funding has been utilised to support 49 school bus services across the country which would have otherwise faced withdrawal. A full list of services funded through any source in Folkestone and Hythe can be found in appendix A .
Information: PT info Portal	£60k	Delivery of a new Interactive bus map and linked journey planner on Kent.gov.uk. Onward fees with related capital budget for set up costs. Initiative likely to be rolled out in Spring 2024
Infrastructure: QR Codes	£325k	Delivery of QR code plates at all Kent bus stops linking to PT info portal. Initiative to be rolled out across 2024.

23/24 BSIP Initiative Programme – Capital

Spend Area and Scheme	Value	Comment
Bus Priority: Pencester Road	£3m	Design and build of bus priority scheme (change to highway reconfiguration, signage etc) in Pencester Road, Dover. Scheme ongoing.
Bus Priority: Rennie Drive	£2.5m	Design and build of bus priority scheme (new carriageway construction, signage etc) in Rennie Drive, Dartford. Scheme ongoing
Bus Priority: Superbus	£2m	Design and build of bus priority scheme (package of measures including highway reconfiguration, signal changes, bus stop alterations etc) in Thanet. Scheme ongoing
Highways: Bus Interventions	£625k	Design and build of smaller scale highway improvements to support bus reliability - e.g. corner re-alignment, bus stop changes, signal changes, kerb work. Initiative ongoing. Schemes under consideration include a scheme to rectify parking issues that restrict bus movements around Hawkinge Aerodrome and Folkestone West Station.
Highways: ANPR Enforcement Sites	£450k	Procurement and installation of ANPR cameras at bus gate / lane locations across the county. Update as part of separate JTB item – <i>“Implementation of the 2004 Traffic Management Act, Part 6 covering enforcement of moving traffic offences”</i>
Fares and Ticketing: ETM Grant	£1,177,840	Grant scheme to enable small - medium sized operators to upgrade their ticket machines to those capable of accepting smarter payment - i.e. contactless and tap on / tap off. Initiative to be rolled to 24/25 to align with national multi operator ticketing scheme.
Technology: MaaS	£1,450,000	Funding secures a Mobility as a Service (MaaS) delivery partner and a back office system for MaaS for the Kent Thameside area. Scheme ongoing.
Network: Community Transport Grant	£450k	Grant scheme (akin to previous KCC CT Grants) offering capital funding to CT providers / local community groups to introduce new or enhance existing Community Transport schemes. Applications to scheme closed and applications being assessed include two relating to schemes in Folkestone and Hythe.
Information: PT Info Portal	£140k	Delivery of a new Interactive bus map and linked journey planner on Kent.gov.uk. Initiative likely to be rolled out in Spring 2024
Infrastructure: RTI	£662k	Delivery of new RTI Screens across the county at bus stops identified through the creation of a bus stop hierarchy. Initiative to be rolled out in 2024. Locations being explored in Folkestone and Hythe include the inclusion of RTI as part of bus stop revisions at Middelburg Square.

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