

Agenda Item No. 6

TO: JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 16th March 2008
SUBJECT: Swale Transport Strategy Update Report
BY: Project Manager
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: An update of work undertaken during the 2008-9 financial year to support the delivery of the transport strategy

Implications: Human Resources Implications – None; delivery is by existing resources or through partnerships

Finance Implications – None; The strategy is used as a tool to identify projects which will in turn will help funding sources to be identified

Legal Implications: Non directly

Crime & Disorder Implications (Section 17): Consideration during design/scoping process for individual projects

Equalities & Diversity Implications: Any projects implemented must improve accessibility to all transport users

Sustainability Implications: The transport strategy promotes the development of sustainable modes

Risk Implications: Non delivery of projects may delay new developments

Corporate Plan Implications: Priority 1 – Regenerating Swale. The work outlined in this report will contribute towards the delivery of the following policies: RS1, RS2, RS3, RS13, RS17, RS19.

Decision Required: Members are asked to note the report

Introduction

1. The Swale Transport Strategy was finalised and approved by the Swale Joint Transportation Board on the 26th September 2006. Annex A of this report will show the progress that has been made in the 2008-9 financial year towards the delivery of the strategy.
2. The annex has been split into the same headings as the strategy, and the progress against each of the challenges identified within that section.
3. During the 2008-9 financial year, Swale had a low allocation of schemes. This was the first year of projects being assessed by PIPKIN. Swale suffered as a result of schemes – and their benefits – not being reflected properly in the initial assessments. Following from this the Borough Council worked very closely with Kent Highways to make sure that the true benefits of schemes and their contribution to overall Local

Transport Plan objectives was recognised. The PIPKIN scores now reflect more accurately the benefits of schemes proposed in the strategy. At the time of writing this report the final cut off scores and funding allocations were not known.

5. The main transport focus for the Borough Council this year has been to lead the junction 5 study and to fully explore the transport implications arising from the Sittingbourne town centre masterplan. We have also assisted the County in the public inquiry for the Northern Relief Road (NRR) and the development of route options for the final section of the NRR to Bapchild.
6. Members will be aware by now that following the Planning Inspector's endorsement of the Northern Relief Road scheme that KCC are now progressing with its implementation. A start on site will be made in September 2009, with completion in Autumn 2011.
7. The Borough Council have also adopted a travel plan for their employees. The aim of the document is to reduce the dominance of car travel for travel to work through offering alternatives such as better cycle facilities and season ticket loans. This will be rolled out during 2009-10.
8. During 2008-9, the Borough Council have been successful in attracting £360k in funding to support delivery of the transport strategy. The County Council have nearly completed delivery schemes with a total allocation of £517k (based upon programme in 16th June 2008 JTB Report. outlining the KHS programme). Funding has also been secured through development to improve bus services to East Hall Farm and Kent Science Park. GLG have also confirmed their remaining £7m commitment to the Sittingbourne Northern Relief Road and have also contributed to traffic modelling associated with Sittingbourne town centre.
9. Members should also note that the Swale Borough Council Regeneration Scrutiny Panel are investigating transport in the Borough, with their final report due in early 2010.

Decision Required

10. Members are asked to note the report.

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Date: 18th February 2009

List of background documents: Swale Transport Strategy 2006-11
KHS works programme report to June 2008 JTB