

**SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
13 JUNE 2011**

Subject:	Swale Pedestrian Guardrailing Assessment
Director/Head of Service:	Director of Kent Highway Services
Decision Issues:	These matters are within the authority of the Kent County Council
Decision:	Non-key
CCC Ward/KCC Division:	St. Michaels and Chalkwell
Summary:	<i>The Board is asked to consider and comment on the proposals to manage sections of guard railing in Sittingbourne</i>
To Note	The proposals as identified in the attached report and make a decision
Classification:	THIS REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Introduction

On behalf of Kent Highway Services, Jacobs have carried out a survey of pedestrian guardrailing in Sittingbourne and are seeking comments on proposals to remove sections of guardrailing from some sites.

Background

The main purpose of guardrailing is to improve safety by trying to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road at an inappropriate place or from straying into the road inadvertently. Guardrailing can also be used to offer some protection to pedestrians at locations where the swept path of large vehicles, such as buses and heavy goods vehicles, takes the vehicles close to the footway, sometimes overhanging it.

It is recognised that where pedestrian guardrailing is badly sited or over installed it not only alienates pedestrians but also looks unsightly, easily becomes damaged which in turn leads to increased maintenance costs and complaints. Indeed poor guard railing can lead to an increase in pedestrian crashes.

A full report was presented to the Joint Transportation Board in March 2011. Not all sites were discussed on an individual basis. It was recommended to defer making a decision until comments had been received on all sites. Appendix 1 is a report with the final recommendations following comments received.

Kent Highway Services' contractor would be carrying out the removals with the panels being recycled. If decorative or ornate railings and panels are highlighted for removal the Borough Council will be able to retain these for repairs or future use.

Options available

Members of the Board can:

1. support the proposals to remove guardrailing at the sites identified in Appendix 1
2. reject some/all of the proposals

Implications

1. Financial – Funding will be provided by Kent Highway Services. A budget allocation has not been secured specifically for this commission.
2. Programming - It is proposed to undertake the works on a site by site basis where damage has occurred to existing barrier to achieve value for money and efficiency.

Conclusion

The removal of guardrailing which is not required for pedestrian safety or for other reasons is in line with national guidance to de-clutter streets. It will also reduce on-going maintenance costs and help improve the appearance of the public realm.

Contact Officer

Rachel Best

08458 247 800

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report – following comments received