

To: Swale Joint Transportation Board

By: KCC Highways and Transportation

Date: 8 December 2025

Subject: Active Travel update

Classification: Information Only

Summary: This report updates Members on KCC's Active Travel Agenda for Swale and an update on the revenue Capability Fund contributions to Swale's Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, an update on KCC's Kent Cycling and Cycling Infrastructure Plan and the developing 10-year plan and an update on bids for capital funding of Infrastructure schemes via the Active Travel Fund.

1.0 Context

- 1.1 In the summer of 2020 the Government released its new Policy for Active Travel and set out the National vision (Gear Change). It set out the actions required at all levels of Government to make this a reality, grouped under four themes:
- better streets for cycling and people.
 - cycling and walking at the heart of decision-making
 - empowering and encouraging local authorities
 - enabling people to cycle and protect them when they do.
- 1.2 Kent County Council has been working alongside the Department for Transport and subsequently Active Travel England (ATE), who have been created as an Executive Body to oversee walking, wheeling and cycling activity.
- 1.3 ATE are responsible for apportioning funding to, and overseeing the delivery of, active travel investment. This includes determining funding allocations and carrying out an assurance function of the detailed design and delivery of active travel schemes. ATE have been established to ensure the highest possible standard is applied in the delivery of walking & cycling schemes with a view to reaching their overall aim; that 50% of all trips in urban centres and cities will be undertaken by foot or wheel. An update on specific schemes funded by ATE through the various tranches of the Active Travel Fund are described in sections 2.0 through to 2.3.
- 1.4 Districts and Boroughs are being encouraged to produce Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) which are strategic, evidence-led plans developed to identify and prioritise improvements for cycling, walking, and wheeling infrastructure at a local level that are supported by residents and elected representatives. The concept was introduced by the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy, with the aim of making active travel the natural choice for shorter journeys and integrating it into longer ones. They typically cover a ten-year period, setting out a long-term vision for developing local cycling and walking networks.

1.5 Swale Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Swale Borough Council has received funding via the annual Capability Fund (CF) awards from Kent County Council who received these revenue grants from Active Travel England. Following requests to each Borough or District Council for their priority schemes, in 2023, the grant (CF23) contributed towards feasibility work on the Swale Local Cycling and Walking Plan (LCWIP) £10,000, Faversham Cross Town Walking Route Phase 2 - £15,000 and Sheerness and Minster Area Improvements (£15,000).

A further £35,000 from the Capability Fund (CF23 Extension) was provided to conduct further studies into Stage 5/6 of the Swale LCWIP, package together the Sheppey feasibility study into the LCWIP, additional route audits and outline designs for 1 or 2 routes in Sheppey.

The Capability Fund (CF24) award provided funds to progress final consultations on Swale's LCWIP, further the feasibility work on a route within the LCWIP and help Swale Cycle Recycle with marketing, new bike donations and purchase tools/parts for a prison workshop. The total value of the award was £50,750.

This year, Swale has been awarded £35,000 for feasibility work with Sheppey Light Railway Greenway, Swale Cycle Recycle tool replenishment, Bike maintenance qualifications and Cycle Recycle scooter expansion.

1.6 Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP).

To support our county-wide role as the Local Transport Authority and supplement current LCWIPs, we are developing a KCWIP for Kent. This plan clarifies our priorities for walking, wheeling, and cycling improvements and ensures all district LCWIPs align in a coherent county strategy.

Key KCWIP outcomes include:

- A network plan outlining preferred walking, cycling routes, and core zones.
- Integration with active travel policies and delivery plans.
- A prioritised programme for future infrastructure investments.
- An evidence-based document detailing analysis and supporting the proposed network.
- A consultation report and update on KCWIP objectives and methodology, presented to the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee on 19 September 2024.

Consultation documents and the cabinet committee report are available at:

[Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan | Let's Talk Kent](#)

- 1.7 In addition to the KCWIP/LCWIP's, KCC is working on a 10-year plan and prioritisation model which aims to create a programme of projects contingent of funding availability. This will consolidate and prioritise active travel schemes across Kent, guiding investment and implementation. Work is also nearing completion on updating the cycle infrastructure map which integrates various walking and cycling infrastructure across the county. These 3 areas of work will combine to produce a coherent programme of work that brings together a wide range of infrastructure needs such as urban, rural, inter urban routes and individual interventions.

2.0 Active Travel England Capital funded schemes.

The grant funding supports local transport authorities with developing and constructing walking, wheeling and cycling facilities and has been provided in 5 tranches. More details on the funding provide by Active Travel England can be found on the following link: [Funding | Active Travel England](https://www.activetravelengland.gov.uk/funding) (www.activetravelengland.gov.uk/funding)

2.1 Active Travel Fund (23/24) – Tranche 4 (ATF4)

KCC received a £1,569,000 ATF4 allocation following a bid for funding based on the following criteria:

- Propensity to convert short vehicle journeys into cycling and walking, resulting in carbon, air quality and congestion benefits.
- Tackling areas with poor health outcomes and with high levels of deprivation.
- Number of people that will benefit from the measures.
- Comply with Local Transport Note 1/20 – Cycling Design standards.
- Authorities undertake network planning to inform prioritisation of future schemes in the form of Local Cycling and walking Infrastructure Plans.
- Schemes are developed in consultation with local communities.
- All schemes must be supported by local authority leaders

The bid consisted of six schemes from 4 Borough/District Councils with Swale Borough Council in partnership with Kent County Council promoting the Faversham Cross Town Walking Route which received £995,000 of the overall grant. This scheme has followed the introduction of the town-wide 20mph.

A working party involving a number of interested parties was formed to guide the designs. A formal consultation on the detailed designs was undertaken and the scheme was implemented in 2024/25 consisting of a number of side road and main treatments to aid pedestrians crossing these roads and junction improvements.

2.2 Active Travel Fund (24/25) – Tranche 5 (ATF5)

KCC received a £1,886,065 ATF5 allocation (Dec 2024). The focus of ATF5 funding is:

- New construction schemes, particularly schemes that can be delivered quickly, such as less complex, high impact schemes e.g. road crossings and school streets.
- Schemes that test new approaches such as retrofitting routes to existing housing developments with poor provision are also encouraged;
- Change control funding to unblock existing ATF schemes to secure timely delivery and improve scheme quality;
- Essential maintenance funding to address safety or accessibility concerns on existing routes;
- Early development of future active travel schemes to be funded in the next spending round period

KCC had confirmation from ATE that the following schemes had been awarded funding for investigation/development. This follows an initial list submitted for the whole of the county in December 2024:

- Development of Faversham a North-South route with junction improvements - £50,000. This project is in the early stages of development and will include, in due course a public consultation on any proposals.
- An additional sum of £70,000 to complete any further changes needed to support the Faversham east/west walking route. The scheme is bedding in and monitoring along with final costs are being gathered.

2.3 Consolidated Active Travel Fund (25/26)

Active Travel England very recently consolidated the Active Travel Fund and the Capability Fund into one combined fund called the Consolidated Active Travel Fund for developing and constructing walking, wheeling and cycling facilities.

KCC was awarded £4,453,591 of capital funding in July 2025 and £1,304,625 of revenue funding in March 2025 with the revenue fund available to support network planning and early scheme design plus community engagement and training activities.

A high level initial list of activities to be undertaken throughout Kent using the revenue fund was provided to ATE in March 2025 and as stated in section 1.5, Swale has received £35,000.

KCC is also working closely with ATE and the Districts and Boroughs to establish priorities for the capital funding with the Faversham north-south route and specifically one or two junctions or crossing improvements likely to be put forward for construction funds following the completion of the ATF5 work on this project.

Contact and report author: Jamie Watson – Senior Programme Manager - Active Travel

Email : ActiveTravel@kent.gov.uk; Contact Centre : 03000 41 81 81