

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**12 March 2013**

**Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 LOCAL PINCH POINT FUND**

**Summary**

**In January 2013 the Department for Transport (DfT) announced the creation of a Local Pinch Point Fund worth over £170 million. KCC has submitted three bids for this funding, which if successful will remove severe congestion problems on our road network. One of these is in Tonbridge and Malling on the M20 at Junction 4.**

**1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 As part of the 2012 Autumn Statement the Government announced the creation of a Local Pinch Point Fund worth £170m to remove bottlenecks on the local highway network which are impeding growth. This fund reflects the Government's commitment to supporting economic growth by tackling barriers on the local highway network that may be restricting the movement of goods and people. The Pinch Point Fund is intended to secure immediate impacts on growth and is therefore aimed at those schemes that can be delivered quickly, with the Department's funding contribution (in the form of capital) only available in financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- 1.1.2 The Fund is designed to promote economic growth through the rapid deployment of schemes that remove transport barriers or prevent the emergence of new transport barriers. Eligible schemes should be those that provide new or improved links to key economic sites (such as an Enterprise Zone, development site or urban employment centre), or which tackle congestion or address the condition of highway structures that are near to the point of becoming a barrier to access. The DfT funding must only be used for expenditure that qualifies as capital.
- 1.1.3 Schemes which will be considered for funding must have already reached a detailed stage of design and appraisal and which unlock significant housing and/or employment growth. Having read the detailed guidance, Kent County Council considers the M20 Junction 4 Eastern Overbridge scheme fits the criteria in order to make a bid to the Department for Transport for funding.

- 1.1.4 Clearly this is an excellent opportunity to secure some additional funding to secure the delivery of this important scheme which is key to the successful realisation of the current and planned strategic housing and employment developments in the area and to the safe and efficient operation of Junction 4.
- 1.1.5 The scheme that is the subject of the bid has been designed and is due to be funded, in part, by development contributions. This bid, if it were to be successful, would provide gap funding to achieve early construction of this much needed improvement.
- 1.1.6 The timescales for bid submissions was very tight and, at KCC's request, the letter in **Annex 1** was sent to them in support of the bid. This has been included in the bid documents and Members are asked to endorse this action.
- 1.1.7 If successful, KCC anticipate the scheme will be delivered by March 2015.

## **1.2 Legal Implications**

- 1.2.1 None for the Borough Council.

## **1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.3.1 None for the Borough Council.

## **1.4 Risk Assessment**

- 1.4.1 Not applicable.

## **1.5 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

## **1.6 Policy Considerations**

- 1.6.1 Community

## **1.7 Recommendation**

- 1.7.1 That the Cabinet be recommended **TO ENDORSE** the letter of support to the DfT.

The Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

contact: Mike O'Brien

<b>Screening for equality impacts:</b>		
<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Explanation of impacts</b>
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The decisions sought are entirely neutral in terms of equality.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	N/A	See previous response
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

*In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.*