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## Kent Street Improvement Scheme

To: **Tonbridge & Malling Joint Transportation Board – 8 March 2021**

By: **Tim Read, Head of Transportation, Kent County Council**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Local Electoral Division: **Malling Rural East**

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**Summary:** This report provides an update on outline design options being developed to improve the road and junction alignment at Kent Street, Mereworth. A recommendation is sought to endorse the proposals for Officers to develop an affordable option that is also supported by the landowner.

### For recommendation

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

S106 funding was secured from Kings Hill Phase 2 development and carried through to the S106 for the Phase 3 development.

The funds are for 'Local Traffic Management and Calming' for:

- A scheme of off-site highway works at Kent Street, Mereworth junction with the A228 designed to mitigate the impact of traffic arising from the Development and to enhance safety and conditions for local residents, pedestrians and cyclists; and

- A scheme of traffic management at Offham Village designed to mitigate the local impact of traffic arising from the Development and to enhance safety and conditions for local residents, pedestrians and cyclists.

1.1 The proposed options being considered are shown in **Appendix A** options 1 to 4.

1.2 The matter was previously reported to a September 2017 JTB. The highway improvement measures for Offham are complete therefore the balance of the S106 funds can be used on Kent Street improvements.

## 2.0 Design Options

- 2.1 Design options being considered are aimed at improving visibility at the Kent Street junction with the A228 plus some additional footway provision, signing, surfacing and strengthening of ironwork/service chambers within the carriageway of the A228 over the length of the scheme; provision of uncontrolled crossing points on A228, keeping as close to the Kent Street desire line as possible; providing a footway link from Kent Street to the wider Kings Hill area and consideration to the potential for the widening of A228 Malling Road.
- 2.2 It is intended for this to provide a safer environment for pedestrians, bus users, and improved visibility for vehicles emerging from the side roads (Kent Street). It will also increase the exposure of the junction to through traffic and reduce maintenance demands and the disruption this causes for this section of the A228.
- 2.3 Option 1 (4300758-000-06 Rev A) consists of realigning Kent Street West away from the property at the junction (No 349) to allow better visibility exiting Kent Street; removal of the hedge which bounds the field and the Highway; replanting the hedge further back into the field to allow better visibility; provision of a footway on A228 to 2 locations with dropped kerbs to allow easier crossing of the A228; removing the vegetation and placing of a footway on A228 to the south of Kent Street East to provide better visibility (there already exists a footway to the north of Kent Street on the east of A228) and provision of 2 bus stops opposite each other to the north of the junction. All Options are also looking at providing a footpath link from Kent Street East to Kings Hill Estate (additional land required from private landowner).
- 2.4 Option 2 (4300758-000-08-Rev A) consists of option 1 but widening the carriageway, reducing the length of the footway on A228 to the north side of Kent Street and provision of a central refuge island to better aid the crossing of A228.
- 2.5 Option 3 (4300758-000-10-Rev 0) mirrors Option 2 but also includes moving the bus stops further north away from the junction and extending the footway to the bus stop heading north and removing the dropped kerbs and footway to the south of Kent Street Junction on the east side of A228.
- 2.6 Option 4 (4300758-000-12-Rev 0) is a much larger scheme and consists of realigning the Kent Street West junction as in the other options, widening the carriageway and the provision of a footway from Kent Street to Beech Road; a small section of footway between Beech Road and Mosquito Road; the widening of the carriageway from Kent Street East heading south to just short of the layby where the road widens.

### 3.0 Finances

3.1 The remaining balance of £826,609 is available for the design and construction of the Kent Street improvements.

Option	Estimated scheme cost range
Option 1	£375,000 - £475,000
Option 2	£400,000 - £500,000
Option 3	£400,000 - £500,000
Option 4	£1,000,000 - £1,200,000

Option 4 exceeds the available budget however all options will still be considered when discussing with the landowner to establish a preferred design improvement.

### 4.0 Legal

4.1 All options require additional land (beyond the highway boundary). KCC is in discussion with the landowner who holds the land for all options adjacent to the A228 and discussions are starting with the landowner who holds the land to the east of Kent Street to allow a connection to Kings Hill.

### 5.0 Recommendation(s)

5.1 The Board notes the options outlined and recommends approval to progress to detailed design on an option to be agreed once land negotiations and full costs are known. Officers will work closely with the local Councillors to agree the preferred option.

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### Appendices

Appendix A – Outline designs of Options 1 to 4.