

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

01 March 2022

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

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

1 INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN INCLUDING ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY UPDATE

Summary: This report provides an update on the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Active Travel Strategy

1.1 Infrastructure Delivery Plan

1.1.1 The infrastructure delivery plan (IDP) identifies the borough's infrastructure requirements including social, physical and green infrastructure, which is necessary to support local growth. It provides information on what is needed, where it is needed and when.

1.1.2 The IDP is a live document that is regularly updated to reflect the Council's progressing Local Plan and the revised business, service and delivery plans of infrastructure and service providers. The requirements outlined in the document and accompanying schedules [**Annexes 1 and 2**] reflect anticipated strategic development opportunities and likely areas for growth that were identified in the now withdrawn Borough Local Plan 2019. Although that document is no longer a planning consideration, it does provide useful context and analysis regarding population growth and associated infrastructure needs. IDP requirements will be updated in due course to reflect the spatial strategy and strategic allocations which will be defined through the new Local Plan process.

1.1.3 It is important that the IDP is kept up to date notwithstanding that the council does not have an up-to-date Local Plan in place. It is a supporting document that can assist in front loading development management negotiations and funding bids, ensuring that all parties involved have an understanding of likely mitigation measures and the high-level cost of these.

1.2 Active Travel Strategy

1.2.1 An update was last provided to Members regarding this matter at the Council's November 2021 Joint Transportation Board (JTB); the report can be found [online](#).

- 1.2.2 The intention remains to progress the preparation of the Active Travel Strategy ahead of the Local Plan. This is required to inform the IDP and provide an up-to-date evidence base to support development management negotiations and infrastructure funding bids.
- 1.2.3 Consultants DHA were appointed by the Council in December 2019, initially to undertake a programme of walking and cycling route audits to inform the Strategy. The focus of the audits was to review and seek to further develop:
- the borough's network of cycle urban routes.
 - cycle routes connecting with the proposed strategic sites in the submitted Local Plan.
 - routes that are otherwise of benefit to the enhancement of the National Cycle Network, and
 - walking infrastructure within Tonbridge, West Malling and Snodland town centres.
- 1.2.4 Four board cycle route audit areas have been defined in response to these objectives, comprising the following:
- Tonbridge
 - Kings Hill and West Malling
 - Borough Green, and
 - Medway Gap
- 1.2.5 DHA was subsequently further appointed to prepare the Strategy document; this will cover stages 1 and 2 of the DfT guidance and other matters that are relevant. The draft Strategy document is currently being prepared.
- 1.2.6 Public consultation was originally programmed to take place in late 2021 but was postponed partly due to a local pre-election period (borough by-elections), and also due to the need to finalise the evidence base following workshops held with Members earlier in the year. Where possible Member feedback has been taken into account in refining proposals and a further Member briefing will be held in advance of the 1 March PTAB.
- 1.2.7 It is now proposed that an engagement exercise focused upon the cycle route priorities take place, and that this will be hosted online via the council's consultation [portal](#). A consultation document outlining the proposals and feedback questions can be found at **Annex 3**. The route audits will be available to view as background information online.
- 1.2.8 It is currently intended that a full draft Strategy will be informed by the feedback received, and that this will be presented for Member consideration to adopt/endorse by TMBC and KCC through relevant committees later in 2022.

1.3 Timetable

- 1.3.1 The following dates are now suggested for the remaining stages of the project.

- 7 March 2022 - Launch public consultation for a period of 6 weeks.
- 30 May 2022 - PTAB report outlining consultation feedback and a final draft Strategy for comment.
- 6 June 2022 - JTB report outlining consultation feedback and a final draft Strategy for endorsement by the board.
- Summer 2022 - Separate consideration of the final draft Strategy by the TMBC Cabinet and KCC Transport and Environment Cabinet Committee for adoption/endorsement by both authorities.

1.4 Conclusion

- 1.4.1 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council wishes to take a proactive approach in supporting the delivery of infrastructure. Through the update of its IDP which is informed by ongoing discussion with infrastructure and service providers, and through the preparation of a new Active Travel Strategy.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 There are no direct financial or value for money considerations arising from this report.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 TMBC should have an up-to-date IDP in place to ensure that strategic infrastructure requirements are known, and that these can be funded and secured in a timely manner. The delivery of active travel infrastructure will help the borough to meet its climate change ambition.

1.8 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.8.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.9 Recommendations

Members are requested to

- 1.9.1 **APPROVE** the adoption of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan for development management and economic regeneration purposes.
- 1.9.2 **APPROVE** the Active Travel (cycle routes) consultation exercise and **NOTE** that this consultation will inform the production of an Active Travel Strategy to be reported to Members later in 2022.

The Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and policy Framework.

Background papers:

Annex 1 - Infrastructure Delivery Plan February 2022
Annex 2 - Infrastructure Delivery Plan Schedule
Annex 3 – Active travel Strategy Cycle Routes
Consultation Document

contact: Bartholomew Wren
(Principal Planning Officer)

Eleanor Hoyle
Direct of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health