

COUNCIL

MEETING OF 18 FEBRUARY 2025

AGENDA ITEM 7 – QUESTION ASKED PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 5.5

The following question (25/001) has been asked pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 5.5 by Councillor Mark Hood:

‘Will the council work with colleagues at Kent County Council to establish a cross-council Member/Officer Active Travel Working Group?’

Responsibility for Active Travel falls to both of our councils and in preparation for Local Government Reorganisation it is important that plans for improving infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling are prepared in unison so that the Tonbridge and Malling Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan complements the Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and that we bring forward the most coherent plans to take full advantage of external funding. This process is best achieved working together and it is essential that members are able to contribute and represent the views of residents so we have an end result which will work best for our communities.’

Response of the Cabinet Member for Transformation and Infrastructure (Councillor Martin Coffin):

Coherent plans for Active Travel are absolutely essential and that is why officers from both the county and the borough continue to work closely together to ensure that proposals meet policy requirements and are deliverable. They must also take account of the strategic planning framework and ensure that our cycling and walking infrastructure is delivered both for existing communities, despite the challenges that entails, and enables sustainable growth in identified areas.

Supplementary response:

All Members will shortly be invited to attend an Active Travel workshop to agree short and long term priorities and I look forward to discussing this important agenda at that meeting, which will be jointly hosted by KCC and TMBC officers.