

Margate and Ramsgate Railway Station Forecourt Enhancements - Local Sustainable Transport Fund

To: **Joint Transportation Board – 19 December 2013**

By: **Tim Read, Head of Transportation, KCC**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Name of Ward(s) affected (if applicable)**

In respect of Margate Station: Westbrook, Margate Central, Garlinge and Salmestone

In respect of Ramsgate Station: Central Harbour, Northwood and Newington

Summary: This report provides an update following a previous report to the JTB in September 2012. The proposed design of Margate Station Forecourt has been revised following stakeholder consultation and is now under construction. The proposed scheme to enhance Ramsgate Station Forecourt is programmed for delivery in 2014/15 and the JTBs approval is sought to begin consultation on changes on the public highway close to Ramsgate Station which facilitate cycle and pedestrian access to the station. Both schemes fall predominantly within Southeastern's lease area on Network Rail land and are funded by Kent's successful 2011 bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In 2011 Kent County Council (KCC), was awarded £2.3 million over four years by the government following a successful bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund. The fund has been established to support investment in capital and revenue initiatives that support economic growth while reducing carbon emissions. Thanet District Council officers participated in the bid development in partnership with Southeastern and Kent County Council and a letter of endorsement was received from the Chief Executive (Annex 3).
- 1.2 £1.5 million of the funding was allocated to improve sustainable access to key High Speed stations in the east of the county, as well as to promote and facilitate walking, cycling and public transport for onward journeys. This included an allocation of £300k for enhancements of Margate Station Forecourt and £250k for Ramsgate Station Forecourt.
- 1.3 In September 2012 a report was presented to the JTB outlining the proposed designs for the two schemes and inviting Members to contribute to the proposals. This report provides an update on both of the schemes and seeks approval to begin consultation on proposed changes to works on the public highway close to Ramsgate Station.

2.0 Margate Station

- 2.1 The proposed design for the Margate Station Forecourt Enhancement scheme was presented to Members at the meeting of the JTB in September 2012. Comments

received from the meeting and those made by other stakeholders were considered and incorporated where feasible, into the final forecourt design which is presented in Annex 1.

- 2.2 Cost increases consequent to the discovery of contaminated land at the site have impacted on the scope of the project but the main elements of the scheme will still be delivered. These include:
- Improving the car park layout;
 - Improving bus turning and waiting facilities;
 - Improved bus stop facilities;
 - Additional cycle parking;
 - Improved pedestrian linkage across the forecourt;
 - Improved signage and onward journey information.
- 2.3 The scheme will be delivered by Southeastern and is expected to cost £925k, being funded from the LSTF and the National Station Improvement Programme (NSIP) through Southeastern. At the time of writing, construction of the scheme is expected to begin at the beginning of January 2014 and is anticipated to last for 26 weeks. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.
- 2.4 There are aspirations to create a safer crossing facility on the A28 to link with bus stops at the end of Station Road, although this falls outside of the funding available for the project through LSTF. This element of the scheme will be progressed as and when funding allows.

3.0 Ramsgate Station

- 3.1 The interchange area at Ramsgate Station is situated directly outside the station entrance and is divided by a central island (Hackney Taxi rank) into two areas with separate access points from Station Approach Road. The area to the west of the island includes the bus interchange (two shelters directly outside the main station entrance), an informal 'kiss and ride' drop off area (directly outside the main station entrance) and the western side of the taxi rank. As buses, taxis and cars all use this area it is busy during peak periods and movements can often conflict.
- 3.2 The second part of the interchange area lies to the east of the central island and is used by taxis, and vehicles accessing the station car park which results in conflicting movements. The scheme proposes to segregate buses, taxis, 'kiss and ride' drops offs and other vehicles to address this issue. Signage and road markings at the entrance to the interchange will be clarified as it is not clear which vehicles should use each of the two entrances, and will visibility splays from the junctions will be increased.
- 3.3 The proposed Improvements to the station interchange area and access road are presented in Annex 2. They include:
- Greater segregation of bus, taxi and car access
 - Resurfacing
 - Improved bus turning and waiting facilities
 - Improved and re-aligned bus stop facilities
 - Additional cycle parking
 - Improved visibility splays onto Station Approach
 - Improved signage and onward journey information
 - Improved footway/cycleway links in immediate vicinity of the station
- 3.4 The scheme will be delivered by Southeastern during the 14/15 financial year and is expected to cost £400k, funded from the LSTF and the National Station Improvement

Programme through Southeastern. Whilst the majority of the works will be on Network Rail land, changes to Station Approach Road are proposed to improve walking and cycling access to the station which require public consultation. The proposed design will narrow the existing carriageway through the installation of build outs and realignment of the existing footway to provide safe crossing points. The changes will result in a slight increase in on-street parking provision. Member's approval is sought to commence consultation with local residents on the proposed changes.

4.0 Recommendation(s)

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the report and approve the commencement of consultation about the proposed changes to Station Approach Road in Ramsgate.

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Annex List

<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>Margate Station Forecourt Enhancements Drawing (final scheme)</i>
<i>Annex 2</i>	<i>Draft Ramsgate Station Improvements Drawing</i>
<i>Annex 3</i>	<i>Thanet District Council LSTF Endorsement letter – 5 April 2011</i>

Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>Kent's LSTF bid and programme</i>	<i>www.kent.gov.uk/lstf</i>