
Margate Railway Station Forecourt Enhancement update and Ramsgate Railway Station Forecourt Enhancement consultation results - Local Sustainable Transport Fund

To: **Joint Transportation Board – 18 September 2014**

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

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Margate Station: Westbrook, Margate Central, Garlinge and Salmestone**
Ramsgate Station: Central Harbour, Northwood and Newington

Summary: This report provides an update following a previous report to the JTB in December 2013. The Margate Station Forecourt construction is nearing completion. The consultation on the Ramsgate Forecourt scheme has been completed and this report provides a summary of the consultation responses received and seeks approval from the JTB to proceed to construction. The scheme falls predominantly within Southeastern's lease area on Network Rail land but includes improvements on the public highway close to Ramsgate Station to facilitate cycle and pedestrian access to the station. It is funded by Kent's successful 2011 bid to the Department for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

For Decision

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 £250k for Ramsgate Station Forecourt and £300k for Margate Station Forecourt.
- 1.3 In December 2013 a report was presented to the JTB updating Members on the design for both the Margate and Ramsgate forecourt schemes, and seeking approval to begin consultation on proposed changes to works on the public highway close to Ramsgate Station.
- 1.4 The Margate Station Forecourt Enhancement scheme was due to commence construction in January 2014 and the construction period was anticipated to be 26 weeks. The final design is presented in **Annex 1**. The discovery of contaminated land at the site has impacted on the cost and scope of the project and delayed the completion of the construction. The scheme is being delivered by Southeastern and at the time of writing, construction is nearing completion. A verbal update on progress will be given at the meeting.

2.0 Ramsgate Station Consultation

2.1 A consultation on the proposed design of the Ramsgate Station Forecourt scheme and associated highway improvements was carried out on 4th August 2014. A consultation leaflet including a plan showing the proposed scheme (the consultation plan is presented in **Annex 2**) was delivered to properties affected by the proposals, notices and plans were placed on lamp columns in the area and an email was sent to County and District Members, the emergency services, Stagecoach and other interested parties. The consultation period ended on 21st August 2014.

2.2 Two residents, a Thanet District Councillor, Kent Police and Stagecoach buses responded to the consultation, and a summary of the comments received is provided below. No objections were received.

Resident 1: Requested an electronic copy of the consultation plan which was sent and no further comments were received.

Resident 2: Supported the scheme but was concerned about traffic speeds and parking on existing double yellow lines which currently occurs outside the Post Office. A response was sent explaining that the narrowing of the carriageway width via pedestrian refuge islands, lining and the proposed right turn lane had been designed to reduce traffic speeds, and that the contravention of waiting restrictions can be addressed by parking enforcement. No further comments were received.

Kent Police: Raised no objections to the proposals

Thanet District Councillor: Supported the scheme but asked whether station parking would still be available during construction so as not to negatively impact on residents in the surrounding roads. Southeastern have confirmed they will endeavour to maintain as much parking as possible in the forecourt during construction but the nature of the works dictate that at certain periods there will be some loss of parking.

Stagecoach buses: Supported the scheme and had no comments on the highway improvements but requested some amendments to the proposals in the forecourt to better facilitate buses. At the time of writing these minor amendments are being incorporated in to the scheme design. A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

2.3 No objections were received during the consultation period, and the comments received have all been addressed. It is therefore proposed that Members endorse the scheme progressing to construction. 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.

3.0 Recommendation(s)

3.1 Members are asked to note the report and endorse the progression to construction for the Ramsgate Forecourt scheme.

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Annex List

<i>Annex 1</i>	<i>Margate Station Forecourt Enhancements Drawing (final scheme)</i>
<i>Annex 2</i>	<i>Ramsgate Station Improvements Consultation 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>