

TO: SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DATE: 9 March 2015
SUBJECT: Eastchurch to Leysdown Cycle Route
BY: KCC Head of Transportation and Development
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: A feasibility study into the provision of an off road cycle link between Eastchurch and Leysdown was undertaken by Sustrans.

Decision Required: For information

Introduction

1. A study into the feasibility of constructing an off road cycle link between Leysdown and Eastchurch was commissioned by Outreach Sheppey as a Sheppey Tourism Alliance/ Sheppey Matters Project. It was funded by the local County Member and was undertaken by Sustrans in 2013.

Discussion

2. The study was commissioned following the opening of two significant cycle routes in 2011: the 9.5km Isle of Harty Trail at the eastern end of the island, and the 9km long Sheerness Way on the west side. The B2231 between Eastchurch and Leysdown is the only road and has no continuous footways. Traffic speeds and volumes mean that it is not an attractive environment for cyclists. Road crashes and incidents can block the road and can cut off the eastern end of the island.
3. The study recommends a number of minor traffic management improvements to the existing highway to facilitate cycling in Leysdown and Eastchurch, but also considers how an off road route between the two urban areas could be provided. Sustrans were asked to consider a design that would allow for emergency vehicle use when attending incidents on B2231. Two options have been considered, one adjacent to the carriageway which will require a drainage ditch and hedge to be relocated, or the other on the land side of the hedge which may be less suitable for vehicular use. Both will require consent of the landowners, planning permission and consultation.

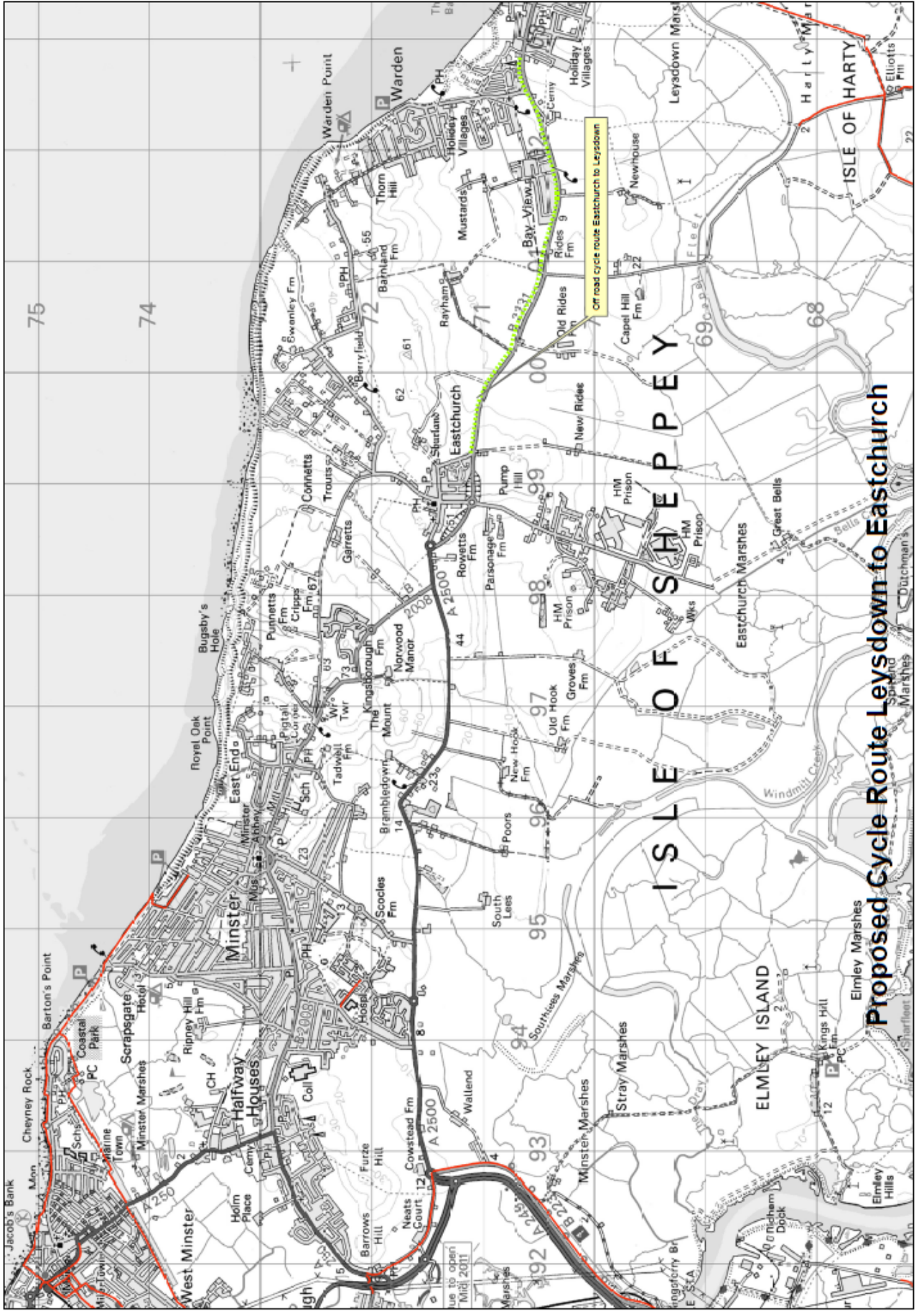
Financial Implications

4. An initial outline estimate for the scheme is £600,000 although a more robust costing would follow a more detailed scheme design. A bid was put forward for part funding from the Local Transport Package towards this project for 2016/17 which was not successful. The bid will be resubmitted for the next round of funding later this year. There is a possibility of seeking funding from Sustrans, but only on the basis of match funding.
5. The scheme has been included in the draft Swale Transportation Strategy as it is a significant piece of cycle infrastructure.

Decision Required

6. This report is presented for Members' information.

Contact Officer: Ruth Goudie, Strategic Transportation Planner, KCC Highways.



ISLE OF SHEPPEY

Proposed Cycle Route Leydown to Eastchurch