

To: Swale Joint Transportation Board
By: KCC Highways and Transportation
Date: 4 March 2024
Subject: Active Travel Fund - Tranche 4 update
Classification: Information Only

Summary: This report updates Members on Faversham's Cross Town Walking & Wheeling Route - Tranche 4 funding and Next Steps

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Faversham Town cross town pedestrian improvements scheme is the first major scheme for the Faversham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.
- 1.2 The scheme builds on the foundation from the town wide existing 20mph limit and helps to make improvements to walking and wheeling across town by connecting pockets of deprivation with the town.

2 Active Travel Funding

- 2.1 A funding bid was submitted to ATE on 24 February 2023 following KCC contacting Swale Borough Council (SBC) and Faversham Town Council (FTC) to ask for their input and priority schemes.
- 2.2 On receiving the priority list, KCC undertook a sifting process which was reported to the 27 February 2023 JTB. The scheme submitted for construction was the Faversham Cross Town Walking & Wheeling Route (see appendix A for proposed route and potential improvements to some of the junctions).
- 2.3 The schemes initial design costs have been estimated at £995,000. The designs include new pedestrian crossing facilities on distributor roads and residential side roads, junction improvements, seating to be introduced along the route, bus stop improvements and investigations into any potential lighting improvements.
- 2.4 Active Travel England announced on 19 May 2023 that they had awarded KCC the full funding as requested.

3 Design Progress update

- 3.1 KCC, SBC & FTC are now working closely together to review the designs/material choices. A public exhibition which was held at the town council offices and the responses from the exhibition has resulted in further design changes to be included at key junctions.
- 3.2 The design has progressed with the aim of providing a route which is comfortable and attractive for walking and wheeling (mobility aids) The proposed designs provide

continuous raised crossings, pedestrian dominant surfaces, tactiles and tighter corner radii to make it easier to travel.

- 3.3 A detailed review of the scheme proposal identified new lighting upgrades at the junctions of Newton Road and Napleton Road, following a design update to incorporate a new zebra crossing.
- 3.4 A detailed review of the proposals has identified locations in which parking / waiting restrictions require a traffic regulations order (TRO) change and consultation. The designs were reviewed to minimise the impact on parking, however the requirements to add zig-zag markings for zebra crossings, clearways for bus stop access and general clear visibility at the busiest junctions has resulted in the need to reduce existing parking levels.

4 Programme and Phasing

- 4.1 Owing to the requirements for consultation of the elements which require traffic regulations orders, the scheme programme will require to be delayed and will be split into 3 Phases:
- 4.2 Phase 1 - These are works which do not require TRO changes and can be progressed to construction in April 2024. The works include installation of the raised tables along Lower Road and the works on William Street, Park Road and Tanner Street.
- 4.3 Phase 2 - The works which require TRO changes includes the key junctions at Lower Road jw South Road, South Road jw Napleton Road, Bank Street jw Cross Lane and Newton Road jw Gatefield Road. Should the TRO consultation complete without objections and or a decision to proceed is accepted at the next JTB meeting, the works will be programmed to begin construction late summer 2024.
- 4.4 Phase 3 - Depending on the final cost of Phase 1 and 2 KCC, SBC & FTC collaboratively looking to extend the scheme to include additional traffic calming measures along Lower Road. These works will take place on completion of Phase 2. The design is currently under investigation and will be shared with the JTB once the design has been developed further.
- 4.5 Depending on the final cost of the current proposals KCC, SBC & FTC collaboratively looking to extend the scheme to include additional traffic calming measures along Lower Road. These are currently under investigation.

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