

Swale Joint Transportation Board	
Meeting Date	4 July 2016
Report Title	Improvements to the A2500 Lower Road
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
SMT Lead	Kathryn Carr
Head of Service	Emma Wiggins
Lead Officer	Kieren Mansfield
Key Decision	Yes
Classification	Open
Forward Plan	Reference number:
Recommendations	Note the content of the report as an update on efforts to secure improvements to the A2500 Lower Road, on the Isle of Sheppey

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 Swale Borough Council and Kent County Council are working to put together a package to support improvements to the Junction between Barton Hill Drive and the Lower Road, on the Isle of Sheppey. The prospect of potential improvements to the A2500, between Cowstead Corner and this junction are also being looked at. This report sets out an update against these schemes

2 Background

- 2.1 To address the serious congestion being experienced along the A2500, KCC have been working on a design and initial costings for a new junction arrangement at Barton Hill Drive/Lower Road, moving from traffic light controls to a roundabout. This work has been further focused by two current planning applications for new residential development at Plover Road and Harps Farm.
- 2.1 Initial design work has been undertaken and the latest cost estimate of the junction stands at £1.6m, and assumes a land contribution from the relevant landowner. Contributions of c£740,000 are being sought from the proposed developments at Plover Road and Harps Farm, with the balance of £860,000 being sought via the current round of Local Growth Funding (LGF3).
- 2.2. As part of the preparation for the current LGF3 bidding round KCC have also initiated early work to consider the potential for widening of the A2500, between

Barton Hill Drive and Cowstead Corner. This arrived at an initial scheme cost of circa £4million and was promoted by Swale Borough Council, alongside the Barton Hill Drive/Lower Road Junction through the LGF3 process. However, given the additional cost, and the early development stage of this scheme, it has not progressed beyond the initial shortlisting undertaken by the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership.

- 2.3 The Kent and Medway priorities will be put forward to the South East LEP, which is itself required to determine prioritised list(s) at its Strategic Board on Friday 15th July. The absolute final deadline for submission to Government is Thursday 28th July. The projects for which funding has been allocated will be announced in the 2016 Autumn Statement.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That the report be noted for information

3 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 4.1 The scheme proposals have been worked up by KCC officers, with submissions for the LGF3 process developed in close co-operation with Swale Borough Council.

5 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	<p>The delivery of the A2500 improvements contributes to Swale Borough Council's priority of 'A Borough to be Proud of', by helping provide improved road transport infrastructure that helps address identified resident concerns about congestion, and supports delivery of new housing.</p> <p>The scheme also supports access to and from the eastern end of the Island, and the local visitor economy.</p>
Financial, Resource and Property	None identified at this stage
Legal and Statutory	None identified at this stage.
Crime and Disorder	None identified at this stage.
Sustainability	None identified at this stage.
Health and Wellbeing	None identified at this stage

Risk Management and Health and Safety	Failure to secure LGF funding may be mitigated by funding contributions from elsewhere, including Swale Borough Council.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage

7 Appendices

7.1 None.

8 Background Papers

8.1 None.