



Minutes

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee

Held at:	Remote Meeting
Date	Thursday, 27 July 2023
Present	Councillors Graham Allison, Beales, Mike Blakemore, Hobbs, Roger Joyce, Tim Prater and Paul Thomas.
Apologies for Absence	None.
Officers Present:	Olu Fatokun (Low Carbon Senior Specialist), Jake Hamilton (Case Officer (Committee)), Lorraine Smith (Economic Development Senior Specialist) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist)
Others Present:	Councillor Mike Boor.

1. **Appointment of chairman**

The Chair alternates between a District Councillor and a Parish/Town Councillor every meeting. The Committee must appoint a Parish/Town Councillor as the Chair of this meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Allison,
Seconded by Councillor Prater; and

Resolved:

That Councillor Hobbs be appointed as Chair for the Folkestone and Hythe District and Parish Councils Joint Committee held on 27 July 2023.

2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last Folkestone and Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee held on 16 March 2023 were submitted, approved as a correct record.

4. **UKSPF & Rural funds**

The Committee received a presentation from Lorraine Smith, Economic Development Senior Specialist on UKSPF and Rural Funds.

Members commented on various issues and made points including the following:

- How is the scheme being promoted?
- Can the council provide Parish Councils with the relevant information, so they can disseminate?
- Can the council please provide a definition of rural, so that members can understand which areas are eligible for support?
- Members raised concerns about Stagecoach's decision to withdraw services (No. 10 bus) to Lympne. And suggested whether the fund could be used to retain this service?
- Members made comment as to whether the fund could be used to implement a community bus service in Lympne if discussions with Stagecoach are unsuccessful?
- Members recognised the scale of work being undertaken behind the scenes in relation to the transportation and infrastructure element of the fund and would welcome future insights.

5. **Levelling Up Fund Delivery**

The Committee received a presentation from Lorraine Smith, Economic Development Senior Specialist on the Levelling Up Fund Delivery.

Members commented on various issues and made points including the following:

- The Council received detailed feedback from Cycle Shepway. Members would like the council to make sure the concerns raised are considered in the design plans.
- Members have suggested that future consultations be held in a more prominent location on the high street, rather than the Bouverie House Business Centre.
- Where can members find details on the consultations that have been carried out? Also, will the feedback be available?
- Was there a diverse demographic involved in the design process, including provisions for wheelchair users?

The Economic Development Senior Specialist responded to said comments:

- The details of the consultations can be found at: [Folkestone Levelling Up - Public engagement July 2023 | Folkestone & Hythe District Council \(folkestone-hythe.gov.uk\)](https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)
- The feedback will be made available. The surveys have only just closed, and the council is in the process of analysing the data.
- The council will be sharing all feedback with the design team.
- Yes, there was a diverse demographic at the consultations and provisions for wheelchair users.

6. District-Wide Carbon Plan

The Committee received a presentation from Olu Fatokun, Low Carbon Senior Specialist on the council's District-Wide Carbon Plan.

Members commented on various issues and made points including the following:

- Has the four-point plan been distributed to all Parish/Town councils? If not can it be?
- Members also suggested would it be a good idea to engage Parish/Town Councils to send their own representative(s) to the CI-Lab?
- Members were glad to hear that the consultations details will be distributed around the district.
- Will the council be encouraging existing builds and new builds to be more energy efficient?
- Members hope that any plan implement is feasible, as there are a number of categories of carbon emissions within the district which are out of the Council's control.

The Low Carbon Senior Specialist responded to said comments:

- The council has not yet disseminated the four-point plan to Parish/Town Councils as it is in the process of analysing feedback from various other committees.
- The council is being guided by the greenhouse gas protocol, which recommends the council to focus on what is within the council's scope of influence. As a district council this would be minor roads and not motorways. This is why the council is working with Active Travel.
- The council is currently working with KCC as they have a local transport plan, which is currently under consultation. The Council is trying to have as much input as possible and influence where it can.

Adrian Tofts, Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist responded to said comments:

- The Government is introducing reforms to the planning system through the levelling up and regeneration bill. One of the reforms is to introduce design codes, and the bill will introduce statutory duties to all local planning authorities to produce design codes for their areas. Part of the remit of the design codes is to take a look at the sustainability of buildings and how councils can promote biodiversity across the district.
- The figures within the power-point are published by Central Government and are what the Government say are within the scope of Local Authorities to influence. These exclude sources of emissions such as motorways.
- The Council will provide details regarding the KCC consultation. Officers will be taking a report to Cabinet later this year with proposed district responses.

Economic Development Project Updates

Lorraine Smith

Senior Economic Development Specialist

27th July '23

Presentation content

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- Rural Prosperity Fund
- Folkestone A Brighter Future update



Funded by
UK Government

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UKSPF & Rural England Prosperity Fund

**LEVELLING
— UP —**

Folkestone
& Hythe

District Council



Funded by
UK Government

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) were allocated **£1,000,000** UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Funding for year 1 was (finally) released in January 2023 with the total to be spent by March 2025.

FHDC are supporting the following key priorities:

- Community and Place
- People and Skills (Year 3)

Revenue and capital funding allocation:

- Year 1 – £100,035
- Year 2 – £200, 069
- Year 3 – £699, 896



Funded by
UK Government

UKSPF - Year 1 spend

Homes Essential Fund:

- Boiler servicing to ensure boilers are as efficient as possible.
- Boiler replacement for items that are no longer suitable for use.
- Oil heating tune ups and support for residents that use oil for fuelling their home.
- White goods provision. To supply replacement or new energy efficient items to households including cookers, fridges/freezers, washing machines/dryers, microwaves and other items as appropriate.
- Beds and mattresses to homes that do not have suitable bed provision.

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Rainbow Pantry Van Project & Assistance to Community Hubs:

Mobile Food Vehicle purchased and awaiting delivery & community hubs commenced work on signposting recipients to the relevant support of offer.

Cookery classes, financial advice and other wrap-around support is also being implemented as part of this project.

Total Y1 Spend - £60,000 with credible plan approved to carry forward remaining funds.



Funded by
UK Government

Rural Prosperity Fund

The fund provides £110 million of capital funding to eligible Local Authorities – FHDC being allocated **£571,471** over a two-year period (23-25).

The Rural Fund supports activities that are seen as particular challenges in rural areas and encourages productivity and prosperity in places that need it most by supporting local business and community and place as investment priorities.

Key REPF priorities FHDC are supporting:

Business

- Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- Capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy

Community

- Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups

Capital funding:

Year 2 – £142,868 (awaiting deposit of funds)

Year 3 - £428,603



Funded by
UK Government

Rural Prosperity Fund - Proposed Projects

How are we proposing to support businesses?

- Enhancing the rural economy through diversification opportunities to allow rural businesses to diversify income streams.
- Improving Energy Efficiency - Providing green grants for rural businesses which will benefit the environment whilst driving down costs.
- Tourism opportunities – Support the Coastal Destination Project which, in turn, will enhance the local economy, protect the environment and allow for all-inclusive activities including water sports and educational facilities.

How are we proposing to support communities?

- Cost of living opportunities to help our most vulnerable rural residents either boosting current provisions or implemented new schemes.
- Improving Energy Efficiency - Providing green grants for rural communities, again assisting with costs in the hope of our community buildings staying open during this difficult time.
- Transportation & infrastructure projects – work with Stagecoach in facilitating a new bus route to connect New Romney to the wider area opening new opportunities for our rural residents.



Funded by
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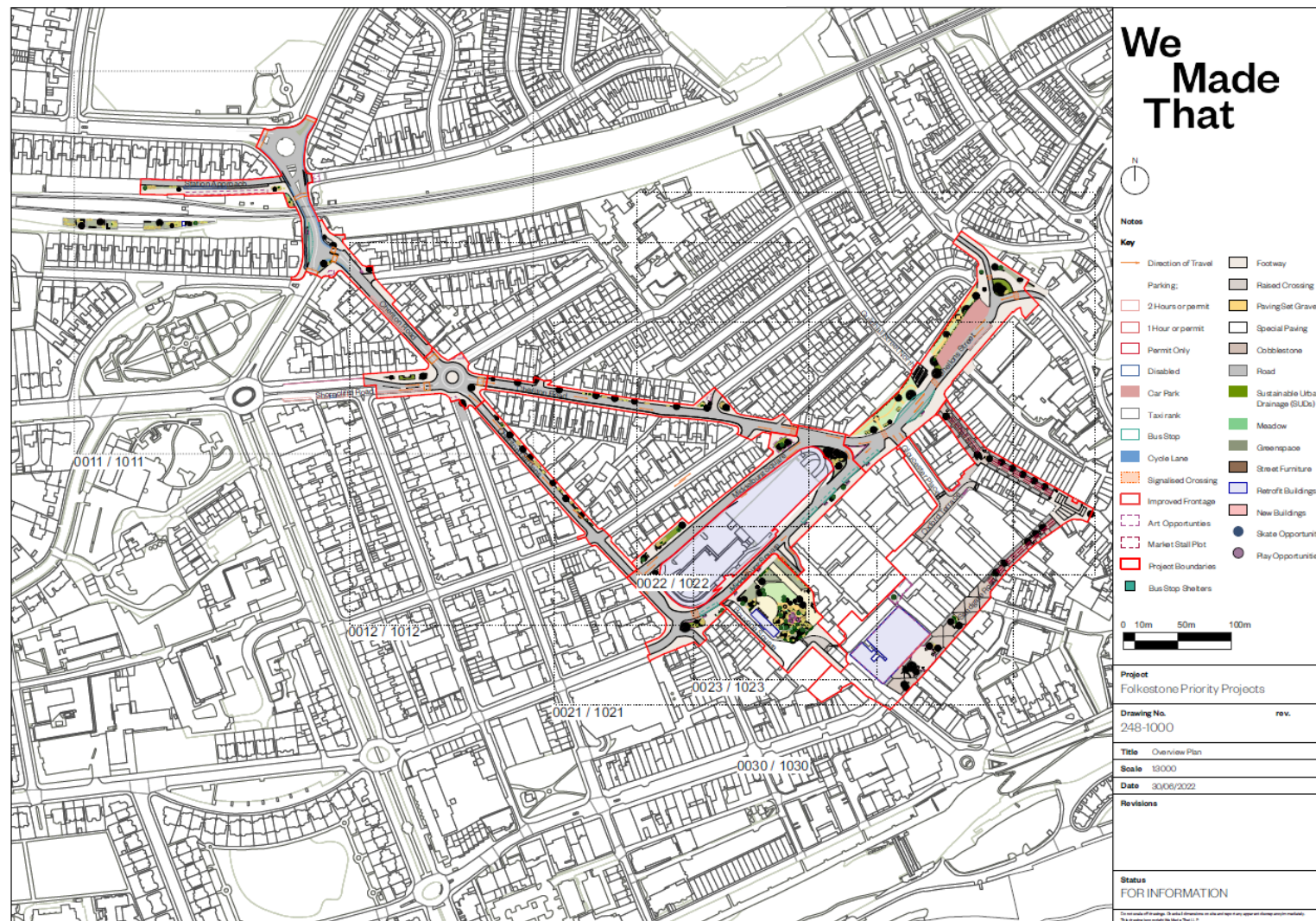
Folkestone A Brighter Future (FABF)

Background

3 work packages

1. Station arrival and town centre connections
2. Improved town centre gateway
3. Folca, Sandgate Rd and Guildhall St

The scheme aims to enhance the quality of the urban environment, increase green spaces, improve civic pride and provide better travel experience for all.





Funded by
UK Government

Folkestone A Brighter Future

Highways and public realm

Progress to date

- Delivery partners appointed
- Programme Governance process in place
- Communications and Engagement strategy developed
- Phase 1 concept design delivered
- Phase 1 public engagement underway (**259 visitors** over 2 day event and materials on line)

Key next steps

- Phase 1 survey works
- Development of digital twin
- Phase 2 concept design

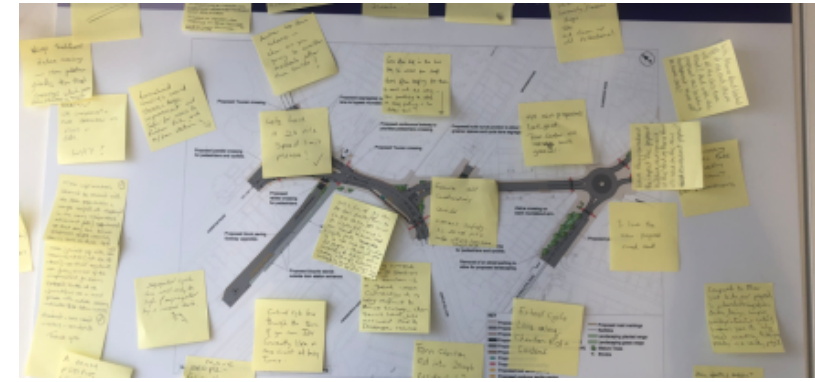
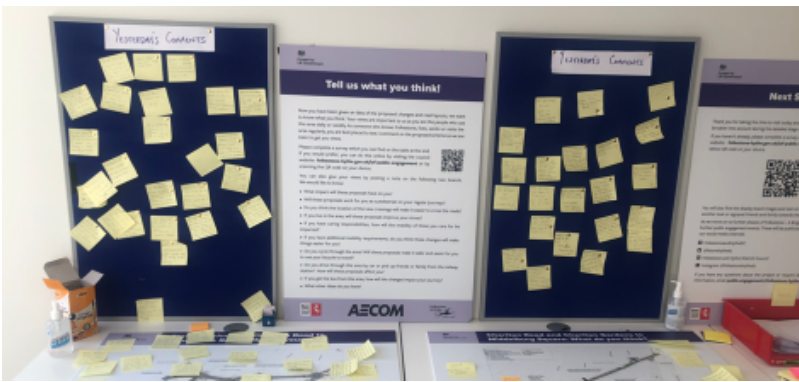
Folca 2 refurbishment

Progress to date

- Pellings LLP appointed for oversight of initial works (Nov '22)
- Investigative surveys complete
- First phase of asbestos removal (in support of site separation)
- Tender paperwork being developed for building contractor
- Commission of architect for RIBA 1-3 (Kent portal)

Key next steps

- Tender published for initial works building contractor (Kent portal)
- Building contractor appointed
- Phase 2 asbestos removal
- RIBA stages 1-3 architect appointed



Phase 1 public engagement

Two-day public event held at Bouverie House Business Centre on 5th and 6th July with **259 visitors**

Draft plans for station approach, station arrival and town centre connections (Cheriton Rd and Cheriton Gdns.) shared.

Opportunity to discuss and provide feedback on plans.
Survey open until 23rd July (online) 24th July (hardcopy)

Email public.engagement@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Concept Design

- New and upgraded pedestrian crossings
- Improved cycling and pedestrian links from Folkestone Central towards the town centre
- New roundabout at Cheriton Rd/ Cheriton Gds/ Shorncliffe Rd junction
- Improved street scene, seating areas and green spaces

Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee District Wide Carbon Plan

July 2023

Context

1. Overview of the District Wide Carbon Plan
2. The Carbon Innovation Lab
3. Folkestone & Hythe Sustainable Futures Forum
4. Proposed Consultation Plan
5. Parish Councils Involvement

District Wide Carbon Plan

Climate & ecological emergency declaration to: “develop a strategy for Folkestone & Hythe District Council to play a leadership role in community, public and business partnerships for our Carbon Neutral 2030 commitment throughout the district”

Timeline

- Initial proposal approved by Cabinet on 23 March 2022
- Carbon Innovation Lab (CI-Lab) formed June 2022
- Regular updates presented to the former Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group (CWEEG)
- CI-lab has held 5 meetings
- Draft Plan presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 27 June 2023
- Draft plan presented to Cabinet for approval to go out for public consultation on 12 July 2023
- Consultation planned for autumn 2023
- Final draft to Cabinet planned for late 2023.

District Wide Carbon Plan - 5 Priority Pillars of Focus



Road
Transport

36% of
emissions



Residential

39% of
emissions



Commercial
& Industrial

25% of
emissions



Other
activities
(waste ,
water, food
production)



Land Use
Absorption

Total emissions across Folkestone & Hythe district – **409,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide at base date of 2018**
(Figures from Government dataset “CO₂ emissions estimates within the scope of influence of local authorities” published annually.)

The Carbon Innovation Lab (CI-Lab)

- An informal voluntary forum set up in June 2022 to drive forward local action to reduce carbon emissions in the district.
- A collaborative and community-led forum, supported by the council, where ideas are exchanged, plans created, and local actions are delivered.
- Consists of representatives' businesses, community groups, special interest groups and people of Folkestone & Hythe District.
- Helped to develop the District-wide Carbon Plan.

Folkestone & Hythe Sustainable Futures Forum (SFF)

- Piloted with a series of public engagement events to produce TEDx-style talks and videos that culminated in a main event that was held at the Burlington Hotel on the 29th of April 2023 being led by Liu Batchelor of LVB Creative.
- An avenue for community engagement on sustainability.
- Plan ongoing future events/engagements activities.

Role of CI-Lab & SFF

Carbon Innovation Lab (CI-Lab)

- An informal voluntary forum to drive forward local actions to reduce carbon emissions in the district and deliver a District Wide Carbon Plan

Sustainable Futures Forum

The umbrella name/brand for projects/initiatives emerging from across the district with the support of the CI-Lab.

Proposed Consultation Plan

- Formal public consultation for 6 weeks
- Target consultations by Canterbury City Council
- Drop-In sessions at various locations across the district – Folkestone, Hythe and North Downs areas
- Dedicated email address

Folkestone & Hythe Parish Councils Involvement

- Encourage people within parishes to engage with the consultation by completing it.
- Inform us about projects/initiatives that are taking place within the parish that may contribute to any of the priority pillars of focus.
- Highlight events over the summer or in early autumn where we can promote District-wide Carbon Plan public consultations.
- Help promote details of the drop-in sessions to ensure good attendance.

Useful Information

For any questions, send email to:

climate@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Questions?

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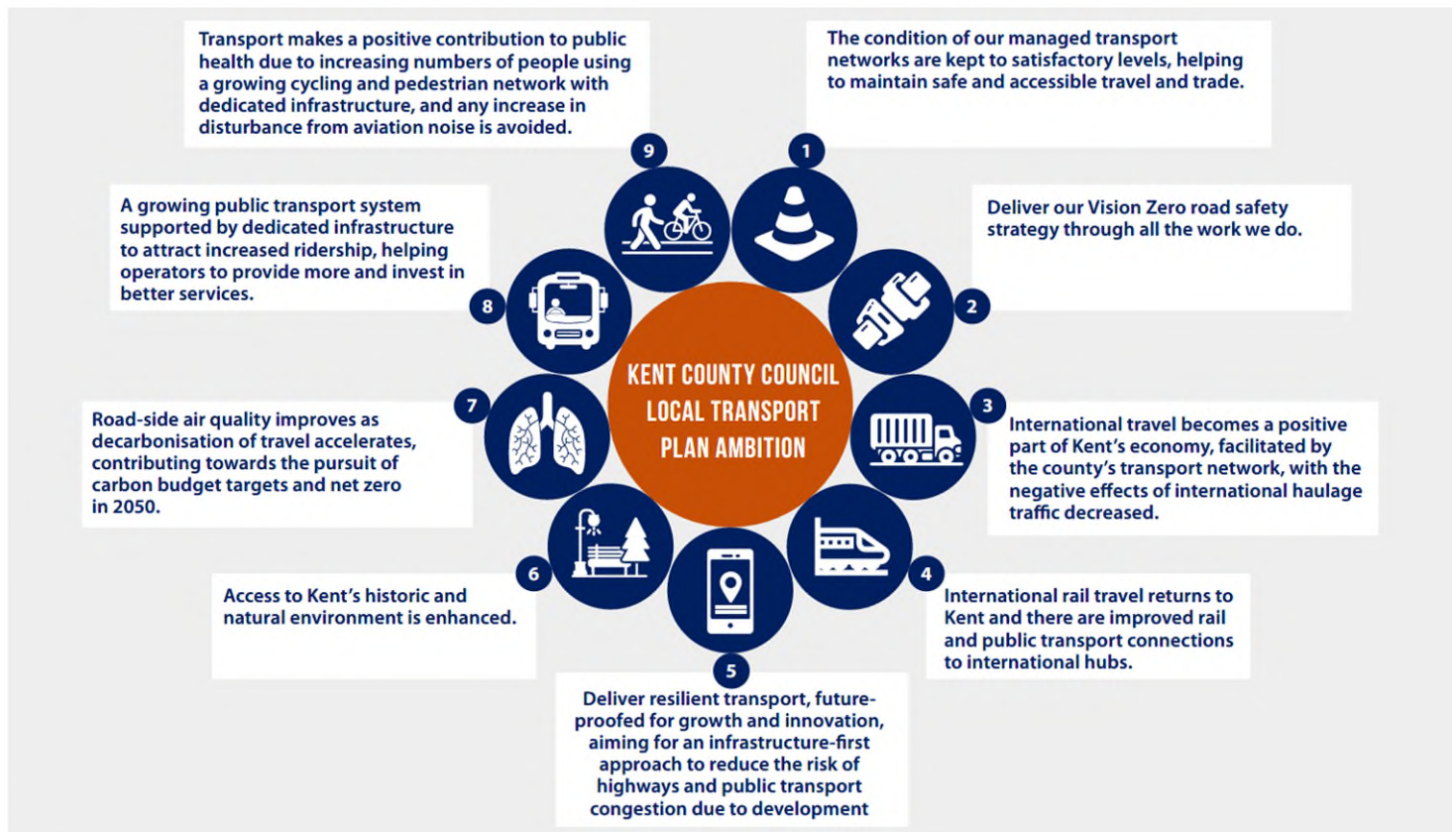
Follow up to Folkestone & Hythe District and Parish Councils' Joint Committee meeting, 27 July 2023

Kent Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5) 'Turning the Curve Towards Net Zero'

Kent County Council is currently consulting on its Local Transport Plan. At this stage the consultation is high level, but it will set priorities for a more detailed version of the plan, with specific transport infrastructure projects, that will be consulted on next year.

The draft consultation plan lists nine key policy outcomes that the plan seeks to deliver:

Figure 1 – Proposed policy outcomes from our draft Local Transport Plan



The consultation runs until **18 September 2023**. The consultation document and questionnaire are available through the following link:

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/local-transport-plan-5>

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