STATEMENT OF REASONS

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CONVERSION OF PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DB1 (Part) DARTFORD and DR1 (Part),
DR4 STONE – CYCLE TRACK ORDER 2014

THIS STATEMENT DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE ORDER

The Kent County Council in order to promote pedestrian and cyclist safety and improve amenities for such classes of highway user, are proposing to provide a shared use cycle track facility on three public footpaths in Dartford.

Under The Cycle Track Act 1984, the County Council has the power to make Orders to convert Public Footpaths. Legislation affecting this proposal is contained within Section 3 of The Cycle Track ACT 1984.

The scheme will comprise of –

- Converting public footpaths DB1 (Part), DR1 (Part) and DR4.

The grounds for a conversion are that those paths DB1 (Part), DR1 (Part) and DR4 would provide a significantly traffic-free and desirable link alongside the River Thames between the new residential housing areas known as; “Ingress Park” and “The Bridge”.

The route is intended to form part of the established Thames Cycle Route which continues through the neighbouring London Boroughs, to Central London. The conversion will facilitate improved surfacing and width for both cyclists and pedestrians.

The County Council is content that following the completion of works associated with the approved planning application DA/10/01114//FUL sufficient surfacing and width, would be available.

The Kent County Council has made an Order to convert parts of Public Footpaths DB1 and DR1 and the entire length of Public Footpath DR4 under The Cycle Track Act 1984, Section 3. This statement has been prepared to explain various aspects of the Order.

The effect of the Cycle Tracks Order will be that the length of footpaths to which the Order relates will become highway which, for the purpose of the Highways Act 1980, are highways maintainable at public expense and over which the public will have a right of way on pedal cycles (other than pedal cycles which are motor vehicles) and a right of way on foot.

The proposals have been subject to a full planning application and been approved by the Joint Transportation Board.
The Order will come into force only after it has been confirmed; making and advertising the Order simply provides an opportunity for objections or representations to be made.

Persons considering objecting or making representations relating to the Order are invited to discuss their concerns with the Senior Public Rights of Way Officer, Colin Finch, at the address below (Telephone Number 01622 221568).

Objections or representations relating to the Order must be made in writing to Colin Finch at the address below, no later than 25\textsuperscript{th} August 2014.

The right of an objection to an Order is a statutory right, but it should be exercised in a reasonable manner. The costs involved in dealing with objections to Orders may be awarded against objectors in cases of unreasonable behaviour.

If any objections are made and not withdrawn, the Council may refer the Order and objections to the Department of the Environment for determination. An Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate will then either take written representations or hear the objections at a Public Inquiry or Hearing. The Inspector can confirm the Order, confirm it with modifications, or refuse to confirm it. If no objections are received the Council may confirm the Order itself, but it has no power to modify Orders.

Details of the conversions as mentioned above can be found on the attached Plan.

\textbf{Kent County Council}  
\textbf{Countryside Access Service}  
\textbf{Invicta House}  
\textbf{County Hall}  
\textbf{Maidstone}  
\textbf{Kent, ME14 1XX}  

\textbf{Date: 11\textsuperscript{th} July 2014}