Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) is proposing to create a shared use pedestrian and cycle path along the section of Princes Road to the East of M25 Junction 1b. The length of the path will be approximately 900m. See location on below map:

**Key:**
- Proposed Direct Route
- Existing Route (part of National Cycle Route 1)

**What are we proposing?**

The proposed shared use path would be constructed through widening the existing northern footway between the Princes Road Interchange Roundabout and the Peanut Roundabout. This has been identified as a suitable route because the existing cycle route (that forms part of National Cycle Route 1) takes a continuous path around the housing estate to the south of Princes Road. Therefore, the new path will provide a more direct route for cyclists travelling in the area.

KCC has secured funding from the Local Growth Fund, allocated by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, towards Integrated Door-to-Door Services in Kent Thameside for this project.
In addition, a Section 106 funding contribution, which specifies spend on footway and cycling improvements, is also available. A Section 106 agreement, is an agreement between a developer and a local planning authority about measures that the developer must take to reduce their impact on the community. This contribution is related to the Next Generation Leisure Centre, Darenth Road. In total we will use £108,000 of this combined funding for the proposed scheme.

Kent Thameside: Integrated Door-to-Door Journeys comprises a package of measures to reduce congestion and improve accessibility through the delivery of a fully integrated sustainable transport network, allowing the user to transfer seamlessly between modes and making sustainable transport a real alternative to the private car. This type of scheme will support the ambition of Dartford Borough Council to reduce the use of cars within new developments for local journeys to limit the impact of growth in the area.

Shared use footway/cycleways are identified by this symbol:

As part of this package, several schemes are currently ongoing across Dartford and Gravesend.

A shared use footway/cycleway is a wide footpath where cycling as well as walking is permitted. On a shared use facility, all permitted users have equal access; it does not have separate cycle lanes and footways marked out. An example of a shared use footway/cycleway is shown in the photo below:

The cycle route design will meet all national minimum design standards, including:

- Widening of the existing footpaths to a minimum of 2.5m.
- The installation of shared pedestrian footway/cycleway signage where necessary throughout the length of the route.
Princes Road, Dartford (A296) Cycle Route
Public Consultation
30 April – 10 June 2018

- Removal of build out located outside of Vauxhall Dartford to facilitate the delivery of vehicles to the commercial sites and to allow the shared use path to remain in a straight line.
- The relocation of existing sign posts and street furniture to ensure pedestrian and cyclist movement is relatively unobstructed.

An initial design stage safety audit has been completed and is available from the consultation website. Another audit will be carried out at the construction stage.

**Why do we want to do this work?**

Cycling has many health benefits, both to the cyclists and the wider environment. The individual cyclist benefits from taking regular cardiovascular exercise in an open-air environment.

The construction of safe cycling routes away from main roads encourages those who may wish to cycle, but are less confident, to leave the car at home and cycle to their destination instead.

The more people encouraged to swap their car journey, the higher the reduction in CO2 emissions and the better it is for the environment. Increasing the number of cycle journeys has been shown elsewhere in England to reduce congestion, improve air quality, improve resident’s health and bring investment to an area. This route will provide an important additional route for cyclists to use for travel to and from work or for leisure purposes, instead of driving.

**What about equality issues?**

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to assess the possible impact, both positive and negative, of this proposed scheme on people with protected characteristics as defined in the Equality Act 2010. The EqIA will be updated after the consultation to consider any relevant information received during this consultation. The EqIA is available to view on our website or on request.
Princes Road, Dartford (A296) Cycle Route
Public Consultation
30 April – 10 June 2018

Have your say

We want to hear your views on this proposal. This consultation will run from Monday 30 April to Sunday 10 June 2018.

If you wish to respond to this consultation, you can contact us by email dartfordconsultations@kent.gov.uk or by post to Dartford Highways Consultations, Transport Innovations, 1st Floor Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX.

This leaflet, the design plan and the Equality Impact Assessment for this scheme are also available to view on our website www.kent.gov.uk/princesroad

Next Steps

Following this consultation, a report will be compiled summarising the analysis of the responses. This report will be made available to consultees. The consultation responses and EqIA will be used to inform the decision made by KCC officers on whether to proceed with this scheme. The proposal will also be presented to the Dartford Joint Transportation Board for comment before construction begins.

If following this consultation the decision is taken to proceed with the proposed scheme, the intention will be to start works in early autumn 2018. In order for the scheme to be built, lane closures will be required but it is intended that two way traffic flow will be maintained and it is therefore unlikely any full road closures will be required.

Advance Notice Boards will be put up two weeks prior to construction and local residents will receive a start of works notice that will include the full traffic management plan. In addition, if necessary Variable Message Signs may be used to ensure information can be updated during the construction period. We will endeavour to ensure that any inconvenience during the build is kept to a minimum.

Alternative Formats

Hard copies or alternative formats of the consultation material can be requested by email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 421553 (text relay service number 18001 0300 421553). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.