

Statement of Common Ground

Between: Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council Highways (KCC Highways)

Relating to: Transport infrastructure requirements to support the Sevenoaks District Local Plan and supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan

1. Purpose of this Statement

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground records the shared understanding between Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council Highways (KCC Highways) regarding the transport infrastructure and mitigation required to support the level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. It provides evidence on ongoing engagement and collaboration and supports the Infrastructure Delivery Plan by confirming areas of agreement and identifying any matters where further work is required.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 SDC is responsible for preparing the Local Plan, cumulative strategic transport modelling and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, identifying infrastructure needs arising from growth (including junction mitigation works) and securing delivery through planning policy and developer contributions.
- 2.2 KCC Highways is the local highway authority responsible for managing the local road network, including roads and pavements. Its role includes ensuring the safe and efficient operation of the highway network, assessing the transport impacts of development, identifying necessary mitigation, and facilitating and promoting sustainable travel choices including public transport and active travel. KCC has developed a county-wide strategic transport model for Kent, which has been used to model and test the proposed growth options and Regulation 19 Plan.

3. Evidence Considered

- 3.1 Both parties have considered the following evidence in forming this Statement:

- The scale and distribution of growth set out in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan;
- The Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
- Kent Local Transport Plan 5: Striking the Balance (2024);
- Sevenoaks Local Plan: Forecast Baseline Report (Jacobs 2026);
- Sevenoaks Local Plan: Tests Report (Jacobs 2026);
- Stage 2 Tonbridge & Malling and Sevenoaks: Local Model Validation Report (Jacobs 2023);
- Kent Bus Service Improvement Plan (2024);

- Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2024);
- Sevenoaks Urban Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2023);
- Swanley Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2024);
- Edenbridge Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (2026);
- National and local policy, including Department for Transport (DfT) guidance;
- Site-specific assessments and discussions between SDC and KCC Highways; and
- Information on existing and planned transport provision across the District.

4. Areas of Agreement

4.1 SDC and KCC Highways agree that:

1. The level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan has been reviewed and understood, and its implications for the strategic road network, local road network, public transport (bus) services and active travel infrastructure have been assessed.
2. The transport and junction mitigation projects identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan are necessary, proportionate and based on the best available evidence, including the Jacobs transport modelling (using the KCC countywide model) and network assessments. Key transport mitigation projects include:
 - M25 J3 improvement scheme
 - B258 Swanley Lane / Bartholomew Way capacity improvements
 - B2026 / Hilders Lane / Stangrove Road / Lingfield Road capacity improvements
 - A21 / Hewitts roundabout capacity improvements
 - Riverhead roundabout – mitigation TBC
 - New Ash Green – mitigation TBC
3. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan correctly identifies where mitigation and enhancements are required, including:
 - Highway junction improvements and network capacity upgrades;
 - Bus service enhancements and supporting infrastructure; and
 - Walking and cycling infrastructure aligned with LCWIPs and active travel priorities.
4. Delivery of highways infrastructure (including junction improvements and walking and cycling infrastructure) is expected to be undertaken

and funded by the developer and will require Section 278 agreements, in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

5. Delivery of bus infrastructure will require Section 106 contributions in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and KCC's Developer Contributions Guide.
6. Both authorities are committed to ongoing engagement throughout the plan period, including regular review and updating of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure it remains accurate, up to date and reflective of emerging evidence.
7. The projects identified are deliverable in principle, subject to detailed design, feasibility, land availability and funding.
8. SDC and KCC Highways will continue to work collaboratively on planning applications to secure appropriate transport mitigation and sustainable transport measures to support new development.

5. Areas of Ongoing Work / Matters Not Yet Agreed

5.1 The following matters require further work or clarification:

1. Detailed design and feasibility of specific highways mitigation schemes.
2. Confirmation of bus service enhancement requirements and funding arrangements.
3. Refinement of the transport modelling as site-specific proposals progress.
4. Clarifying the expected commencement of each project, recognising that delivery timing is dependent on when associated development comes forward and the resulting impact on the highway.

5.2 Both parties are committed to resolving these matters through continued engagement.

6. Delivery and Phasing

6.1 SDC and KCC Highways acknowledge that the delivery of transport infrastructure will depend on:

- The timing and phasing of development;
- Availability of land;
- Detailed transport design and feasibility;
- Coordination with wider infrastructure programmes; and
- Funding availability and developer contributions.

6.2 Indicative delivery timescales are set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and will be refined as further information becomes available in due course.

7. Signatures

Signed on behalf of Sevenoaks District Council	
Name:	
Role:	
Date:	

Signed on behalf of Kent County Council Highways	
Name:	
Role:	
Date:	