

Local Transport Plan 5

Public consultation 17 July to 8 October 2024

Consultation Questionnaire

We would like to hear your views on our draft Local Transport Plan 5 called *Striking the Balance*. The plan sets out the ambition we have for transport and the journeys it provides for residents, business, and visitors to Kent. The plan sets out proposals for improving roads and public transport in Kent, which will help us to focus our future efforts and invest funding we can get from the government.

Your views are important in helping us to decide whether the plan we have developed will improve journeys and deliver the outcomes our plan aims to deliver.

We will use your feedback to help us to finalise the Plan.

We have provided this questionnaire for you to give your comments. The questionnaire is split into seven sections:

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You can respond to all or as many of the sections/questions as you like. If you would rather not provide feedback on a section or question, just move on to the next one.

This questionnaire can be completed online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5

Alternatively, if you are unable to complete the questionnaire online, please complete this Word/paper form and return to:

Email: ltp5@kent.gov.uk

Address: Local Transport Plan
Kent County Council
Invicta House

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Maidstone
ME14 1XX

Please ensure your response reaches us by midnight 8 October 2024.

What information do you need before completing the questionnaire?

We recommend that you read the draft Local Transport Plan online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5 before responding to this questionnaire.

If you need any help taking part in this consultation or have any questions, please contact us at ltp5@kent.gov.uk or telephone us and leave a voice message at 03000 41 65 95.

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Alternative formats: If you require any of the consultation material in an alternative format or language, please email: alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or call: 03000 42 15 53 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 42 15 53). This number goes to an answering machine, which is monitored during office hours.

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Section 1 – About you

Q1. Are you responding...?

Please select the option from the list below that most closely represents how you are responding to this consultation.

Select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	As a Kent resident	
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a resident from somewhere else, such as Medway	
<input type="checkbox"/>	In a professional capacity, please specify:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of a Charity or a Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise organisation (VCSE)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of a business	
<input type="checkbox"/>	On behalf of a District / Borough / Town / Parish Council in an official capacity	
<input type="checkbox"/>	As a Parish / Town / Borough / District / County Councillor	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify:	<input type="text" value="Residents Association"/>

Q1a. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of your organisation. Write in below.

Q2. Please tell us the first 5 characters of your postcode:

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Please do not reveal your whole postcode. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please use your organisation’s postcode. We use this to help us to analyse our data. It will not be used to identify who you are.

Q3. How did you find out about this consultation?

Select *all that apply*.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Email from KCC’s Transport Strategy team	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Email from Let’s talk Kent / KCC’s Engagement and Consultation team	
<input type="checkbox"/>	From my Parish / Town / Borough / District Council	
<input type="checkbox"/>	From a friend or relative	
<input type="checkbox"/>	KCC County Councillor	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent.gov.uk website	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Newspaper	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Poster	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Radio	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Social media	
<input type="checkbox"/>	From another organisation, please specify:	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify:	<input type="text"/>

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Section 2 – Overall support for the new draft Local Transport Plan

Q4. Do you support our new draft Local Transport Plan?

Select one option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Partly
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know

Q4a. Please tell us the reason for your answer in the box below:

NEDRA (New Edenbridge District Residents' Association) is disappointed to note that minimal improvements to the existing infrastructure within and near Edenbridge are proposed in the plan.

KCC should be fully aware that the existing highway infrastructure in Edenbridge and its immediate surroundings is both dilapidated and inadequate to support the current level of development. This is evident from the frequent road closures and traffic lights needed to address defective roads or utilities, as well as recurring sewage overflows into the River Eden and regular surface water flooding every winter. Without significant improvements to this infrastructure, the frequency and severity of these issues will only worsen. Public transport by bus or rail are also not adequately addressed. The current rail service is unreliable and antiquated, running on diesel not electric and will become obsolete without investment. The bus service for the general public to Sevenoaks does not exist. We would suggest that these upgrades be completed before any further residential developments are undertaken.

This plan proposes very limited improvements for the residents of Edenbridge.

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Details of many of the major issues are provided below:

Edenbridge is only supplied by B roads. It takes over 20 minutes for the police to respond and almost 30 minutes to reach the main hospital with A&E at Pembury.

The road to Tonbridge, is crossed twice by the Tonbridge to Redhill line. One crossing has a narrow tunnel where traffic meets head on after a 90 degree bend which prevents seeing oncoming traffic. The tunnel height is low. The other crossing is a single track bridge approached by 90 degree bends. Over the years there have been numerous accidents at these points.

The road to Sevenoaks is very narrow at Goathurst common, traffic cannot pass without slowing down. This is another potential accident site. The junction at Bessels Green is narrow and with cars parked, cars go down to single file. The crossroads at Four Elms regularly has accidents with vehicles hitting garden walls or buildings.

The road to Oxted is narrow and winding at Crockham Hill. This is the route to the main secondary school for Edenbridge. The junction with Dennets Lane is renowned for accidents and fatalities.

Roads to Tonbridge and Lingfield routinely flood and are unusable for days, likewise with roads to Oxted.

The Main road/Station road in Edenbridge is crossed by the Tonbridge to Redhill rail line. The road passes through a narrow low tunnel. Large vehicles either have to drive in the middle of the road or the tunnel is too low for them. As there is no facility for the lorries to easily turn around, they get stuck under the bridge, which causes traffic to build up near the Lidl/Home Bargains supermarkets and the industrial area.

The T-junction where the B2027 joins the B2026 has traffic delays every morning.

The road to Four Elms/Sevenoaks and Tonbridge, is also crossed by the Tonbridge to Redhill rail line. The road passes through a tunnel that is lower and narrower than the previous one mentioned. Access is controlled by traffic lights which hinder the traffic flow. Lorries regularly get stuck under the bridge or find as they approach that they are too big for the bridge and then struggle to manoeuvre away. The road here has no pavement, which makes it difficult for pedestrians to reach Nomads recreational area.

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The General condition of the country roads that form the main access routes for Edenbridge, require maintenance and improvement. There are limited pavements if any in most cases. There are gulleys between the tarmac and the grass verge, plus potholes that make our roads a danger for cyclists who understandably then travel nearer the centre of the road, causing more traffic delays. Edenbridge and surrounding areas are extremely popular for serious cyclists, because of its rural nature.

The main road into Edenbridge, Station Road/Mont St Aignan is regularly shut off, or one side of the road is restricted due to repairs on leaking gas mains, sewers, or water mains. This causes long traffic queues. This year the road was shut off for almost 8 weeks for a sewer repair that was 9 meters below the road level. At the same time the road was shut off for an emergency repair to a gas main at the junction with the Four Elms road. The traffic flow was severely disrupted. Residents were very frustrated. The ageing Victorian infrastructure has the potential to create many more similar occurrences. Future housebuilding will make the situation worse.

The rail links to London have been gradually degraded over the last 6 years. Edenbridge Town had 10-carriage trains every half hour to London and from London during peak times. Now the service is hourly, plus one extra train in the morning and the trains are 5,6 or 8 carriages. The carriages have been sold off to other users. The diesel powered units will not meet net zero requirements and there is no plan to replace them. The reliability of the diesel units has dropped recently due to maintenance savings. Connecting trains from Oxted to Uckfield, so on the Edenbridge Town line, are frequently cancelled in the evenings, leaving customers stranded at Oxted.

The Tonbridge to Redhill line lost its direct connection to London in 2018.

How will residents of the future travel to or out of Edenbridge for work with the currently inadequate transport system and in view of the fact the KCC transport plan says nothing concrete about improving this situation?

The roads/pavements in Edenbridge are too narrow to accommodate cycle ways. It is claimed the town has two cycle ways. These are just at traffic lights on the Mont St Aignan way. One is 20 metres long and the other is 50 meters long. These cannot be claimed to be cycle ways that contribute to net zero or safety of cycling.

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- Q5. In 2023 we consulted on our draft Emerging Local Transport Plan and received feedback on the Plan's ambition, outcomes, and objectives. If you wish to make any comment on these aspects, please tell us in the box below.**

Please do not include any information that could identify you or anyone else in your response.

No comment.

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Section 3 – Strategic network-wide proposals

In this section you have the opportunity to tell us about your views on our Strategic network-wide proposals (from page 22 of the draft LTP5). These have been grouped under four themes:

- Strategic Road Network
- Local Road Network
- Public and Shared Transport Network
- Walking, cycling and other forms of non-motorised travel.

You can answer all or as many of the questions on each of these as you like. If you would rather not provide feedback on a question, just move on to the next one.

Q6. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the Strategic Road Network?

Select **one** response option per proposal/row.

Strategic Road Network proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
Lower Thames Crossing		X		
M2 Junction 1 capacity enhancement		X		
A282 (M25) Junction 1A capacity enhancement		X		
M2 Junction 4 capacity and local development connections		X		
M2 road capacity enhancement		X		
M2 Junction 7 capacity enhancement		X		
South Canterbury A2 junction access enhancements		X		
A2 Dover Access / Duke of York and Whitfield interim improvements		X		
International haulage traffic management		X		
M25-M26-A21 East-facing slips	X			

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A21 Kipping's Cross enhancements		X		
Trunking: A229 and A249, both between M2 and M20		X		

Q6a. If you would like to make any comments on the Strategic Road Network proposals or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

The proposed strategic road network has minimal direct benefits for Edenbridge. The closest proposed strategic road is geographically distant from Edenbridge, which is mainly served by B roads. For instance, inhabitants must travel for at least 20 minutes to get to the M25 or A21 intersections, which reduces the usefulness of these upgrades for daily connection within the town.

Certain plans, including the M25-M26-A21 East-facing slips and the A21 Kipping's Cross enhancements, could help reduce traffic for routes that pass through Sevenoaks and other nearby areas. These, however, don't deal with the urgent problems that immediately affect Edenbridge, such the dependability and safety of the local roads, which frequently flood and receive inadequate repair.

We strongly recommend that Kent County Council give priority to improving the dependability of public transport services for Edenbridge, which has experienced major cuts, as these would better suit Edenbridge residents' needs, especially in view of the vast development potential in the SDC 2040 Local Plan.

Q7. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the Local Road Network?

*Select **one** response box per proposal/row.*

Local Road Network proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
Maintaining the road network	X			
Road Safety Vision Zero	X			

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A229 Blue Bell Hill improvements		X		
North Thanet Link		X		
Alkham Valley Spitfire Way junction improvements		X		
Sandwich bypass improvements		X		
A2 Gravesend local junction improvements		X		
A228-A264 corridor improvements – West Malling to Tunbridge Wells		X		
Development Management				X
Supporting the shift to electric vehicles through new charging points	X			

Q7a. If you would like to make any comments on the Local Road Network proposals or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

NEDRA is deeply concerned about the lack of attention given to Edenbridge in the local road network proposals, despite the long-overdue need for improvements.

The road infrastructure is getting older and is heavily strained by ongoing maintenance problems like gas leaks, sewage repairs and surface water flooding that result in lengthy delays and closures. There is an urgent need to upgrade the local road network because adding significantly more homes, as proposed in the 2040 local plan, will only make these issues worse.

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Q8. Do you agree with the proposals identified for Public and Shared Transport Network?

Select **one** response option per proposal/row.

Public and Shared Transport Network proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
Rail freight gauge enhancement for international traffic		X		
Maidstone mainline rail journey time improvements		X		
Gatwick access improvements		X		
Dover / Folkestone High Speed rail journey time improvements		X		
International rail passenger services for Kent		X		
Sturry and Canterbury West rail corridor improvements		X		
Local rail services		X		
Bus Service Improvement Plan (county-wide)		X		
Thameside Fastrack network growth		X		
Dover Fastrack network growth		X		
Mobility as a Service		X		
Cycle Hire trials		X		
Shared transport hubs (also known as Mobility Hubs)		X		
Elizabeth line extension to Ebbsfleet		X		
Opposition to Gatwick expansion	X			

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Q8a. If you would like to make any comments on the Public and Shared Transport Network proposals or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

The public and shared transport network proposals show little in the way of benefits for Edenbridge, despite the serious transport difficulties faced by our community. Edenbridge does not feature in any of the suggested enhancements, such as the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) or in any local rail service upgrades described in the plan. The proposed change to access at one of our train stations has already been promised by Cooper Estates as part of a recently approved outline planning application. Improvements to the station do not go far enough and access between platforms is impossible for wheelchair users and very difficult for those with mobility issues or adults with pushchairs and prams.

While there is a clear emphasis on opposing Gatwick's expansion due to noise and environmental concerns, it is worth noting that Edenbridge is directly under the flight path. The expansion will only increase the disturbance to our residents. Though some residents may benefit from increased employment opportunities, the majority will bear the negative effects of noise pollution and increased air traffic.

Q9. Do you agree with the proposals identified for walking, cycling and other forms of non-motorised travel?

*Select **one** response option per proposal/row.*

Walking, cycling and other forms of non-motorised travel proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
Our 15 initial proposed walking zones we will focus on from our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan		X		

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Our 15 initial proposed cycling route corridors we will focus on from our Kent Cycling and Walking infrastructure plan		X		
Public Rights of Way improvements		X		

Q9a. If you would like to make any comments on the walking, cycling and other forms on non-motorised travel proposals or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

The Local Transport Plan does not include any significant walking or cycling enhancements for Edenbridge. Although the rural attractiveness of Edenbridge draws a lot of keen cyclists, the roads are dangerous and badly maintained for non-motorised traffic.

Cycling Infrastructure: Edenbridge is cited as having two cycleways, but these are minimal, with one being only 20 meters long and the other 50 meters long. These do not meaningfully contribute to safety or the net-zero goals. There are no cycle lanes on main routes through the town, and the surrounding B roads are often narrow, winding, and hazardous for cyclists.

Pedestrian Safety: There is a lack of adequate pedestrian walkways, which makes walking a challenge for residents, especially those with mobility issues.

In summary, while the wider Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP) identifies corridors and zones across the county, none of these focus on the pressing needs of Edenbridge. We urge KCC to consider localised infrastructure investments to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians, supporting both the county's health goals and the shift toward active travel.

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Section 4 – District proposals

In this section you have the opportunity to tell us about your views on our district specific proposals (from page 58 of the draft LTP5). These have been grouped into each of Kent's 12 districts:

- Ashford
- Canterbury
- Dartford
- Dover
- Folkestone and Hythe
- Gravesham
- Maidstone
- Sevenoaks
- Swale
- Thanet
- Tonbridge and Malling
- Tunbridge Wells

You can answer all or as many of the questions on each of the districts as you like. If you would rather not provide feedback for a question/district, just move on to the next one.

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Q10. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Ashford?

Select **one** response box per proposal/row.

Ashford proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
International traffic management improvements				
Return of international passenger rail services to Ashford International station				
International rail freight gauge enhancements				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Junction 10a improvements for local traffic				
A28 Chart Road improvements				
Local rail service improvements for Maidstone and Marshlink line				
Ashford to Charing corridor cycling improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Ashford to Folkestone corridor cycling improvements as set out in our KCWIP				
Improved local connections to Appledore station				

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Q10a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Ashford or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. *If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.*

No comment.

Q11. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Canterbury?

*Select **one** response box per proposal/row.*

Canterbury proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
M2 Junction 7 Brenley Corner improvements				
A2 junction improvements south and west of Canterbury city				
A299 Thanet Way renewal				
A299 Thanet Way Chestfield access improvements				
Sturry link road				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Return of international passenger rail services to Kent				
Local rail service improvements towards Faversham and Dover				

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Potential rail service to Gatwick				
Sturry and Canterbury West station and surrounds improvements				
Cycling corridor improvements southwards out of Canterbury towards Dover, Folkestone and Sandwich as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Cycling corridor improvements eastwards out of Canterbury towards Birchington as set out in our KCWIP				

Q11a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Canterbury or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

No comment.

Q12. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Dartford?
Select **one** response box per proposal/row.

Dartford proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
The Lower Thames Crossing				
M25 (A282) Junction 1A improvements				
Return of international passenger rail services to Ebbsfleet International				

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Elizabeth line extension to Ebbsfleet				
Kent Thameside Fastrack network expansion				
Bean Fastrack tunnels				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Fastrack interchange hub as part of Ebbsfleet station quarter redevelopment				
Mobility as a Service pilot				
Learning from shared transport and any mobility hub pilots in Ebbsfleet Garden City				
Swanscombe and Stone and Dartford station improvements				
Dartford town centre improvements (further phases)				
Walking improvements for the wider Dartford, Swanscombe and Stone area as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Dartford to Stone and Gravesend cycling improvements as set out in our KCWIP				

Q12a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Dartford or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. *If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.*

No comment.

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Q13. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Dover? Select *one* response box per proposal/row.

Dover proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
A2 Dover Access improvements and improvements to Duke of York and Whitfield roundabouts				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Dover and Folkestone High Speed rail journey time improvements				
Local rail service improvements for Dover to Canterbury East				
Dover to Canterbury and Deal corridor cycling improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Improvements to walking in Dover as set out in our KCWIP				
Improvements to walking in Deal as set out in our KCWIP				
International traffic management improvements				
International rail freight gauge enhancements				
Sandwich bypass improvements				
Dover Fastrack network development				

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Q13a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Dover or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

No comment.

Q14. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Folkestone and Hythe? Select **one response box per proposal/row.**

Folkestone and Hythe proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
International traffic management				
International rail freight gauge enhancements				
Alkham Valley Spitfire Way junction improvements				
Folkestone and Dover High Speed rail journey time improvements				
Return of international passenger rail services to Kent via Ashford International station				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Westenhanger station upgrade for High Speed services				

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Learning from shared transport and any mobility hub pilots in Otterpool Park Garden Town				
Folkestone to Canterbury corridor cycling improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Hythe to Ashford corridor cycling improvements as set out in our KCWIP				
Sub-regional walking and cycling corridor from Hythe towards Rye in East Sussex				

Q14a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Folkestone and Hythe or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. *If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.*

No comment.

Q15. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Gravesham?
*Select **one** response box per proposal/row.*

Gravesham proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
The Lower Thames Crossing				
Improvements to the local junctions for the A2				
Kent Thameside Fastrack network expansion				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				

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Return of international passenger rail services to Kent via Ashford International station				
Mobility as a Service pilot				
M2 Junction 1 enhancements				
Gravesend to Stone and Dartford cycling improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Gravesend to Meopham cycling improvements as set out in our KCWIP				
Elizabeth line extension to Ebbsfleet				

Q15a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Gravesham or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

No comment.

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Q16. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Maidstone?

Select **one** response box per proposal/row.

Maidstone proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
A229 Blue Bell Hill improvements				
M20 Junction 7 improvements				
M2 Junction 4 improvements to support bifurcation strategy, given local growth pressures				
International traffic management improvements				
International rail freight gauge enhancements				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Step free access improvements e.g. Maidstone West, Yalding, Marden				
Maidstone town centre improvements including Maidstone West urban realm, river crossings, town centre congestion, junctions' performance				
Maidstone to Sittingbourne corridor cycling improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Extending cycling corridor improvements from Ashford to Charing into the district towards Lenham and Bearsted				

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Q16a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Maidstone or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

No comment.

Q17. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Sevenoaks?
Select **one** response box per proposal/row.

Sevenoaks proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
M25-M26-A21 – slips for journeys eastwards on M26 to avoid Sevenoaks town centre	X			
Opposition to Gatwick expansion due to noise disturbance from flight paths	X			
Bat and Ball junction improvements		X		
Improved rail stations in Edenbridge	X			
Bus Service Improvement Plan		X		
Improvements to walking in Swanley as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)		X		
Improvements to cycling corridors in Sevenoaks.		X		

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Q17a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Sevenoaks or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

Bus Services: Edenbridge has no direct bus connection to Sevenoaks (other than a school bus), which severely limits access to key services and employment opportunities for residents without private vehicles. The lack of inclusion in the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) further isolates Edenbridge and neglects opportunities to increase sustainable transport use.

Cycling Infrastructure: The cycling infrastructure in Edenbridge is minimal, with only two short cycle lanes that do not meaningfully contribute to safety or encourage cycling as a viable transport option. Given the town's popularity among cyclists, especially due to its rural surroundings, there is a missed opportunity to improve cycling routes and enhance safety.

Rail Services: While the station accessibility improvements are positive, they have been promised already by a developer who has got outline planning permission in Edenbridge. The reduction in train services and frequency in recent years has left Edenbridge poorly connected to larger urban areas. The decrease in carriage numbers and reliability issues with diesel-powered trains limit commuting options, particularly during peak times.

Gatwick Airport Expansion: We support the continued opposition to the Gatwick expansion due to the significant noise pollution that already affects Edenbridge. The potential environmental and quality-of-life impacts on residents from increased air traffic are considerable.

We urge KCC to prioritise more comprehensive improvements for Edenbridge within the district transport proposals, particularly in enhancing bus services, cycling infrastructure, and rail connections, to better serve the needs of our, soon to be, growing population. Connections to key locations such as Sevenoaks and Pembury Hospital are extremely poor, and we see no improvement to these in the Transport Plan.

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Q18. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Swale? Select *one* response box per proposal/row.

Swale proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
M2 Junction 7 Brenley Corner improvements				
M2 corridor capacity enhancement junction 4 to junction 7				
Key Street junction improvements				
Local rail service improvements Sheerness to Sittingbourne and Faversham to Medway				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Sittingbourne town centre improvements including walking journeys as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP) and consideration of approaches to congestion relief including potential new highways routes between the A2 and M2				
Sittingbourne to Faversham cycling corridor improvements as set out in our KCWIP, along with associated opportunities from the M2 Junction 7 improvements				
Sheerness to Leysdown cycling corridor improvements as set out in our KCWIP				

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Q18a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Swale or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.

No comment.

Q19. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Thanet? Select *one* response box per proposal/row.

Thanet proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
A28 North Thanet Link				
Supplemental local development delivered link roads to maximise connectivity and capacity benefits from the North Thanet Link				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Ramsgate and Margate town centre improvements as part of funded Town Deals				

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Broadstairs station step free access				
Birchington walking improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				
Westwood walking zone improvements as set out in our KCWIP				
Birchington to Canterbury and Ramsgate cycling corridors improvements as set out in our KCWIP				

Q19a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Thanet or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. *If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.*

No comment.

Q20. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Tonbridge and Malling? Select **one response box per proposal/row.**

Tonbridge and Malling proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
A229 Blue Bell Hill improvements				

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A228-A264 corridor improvements				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
Rail journey time improvements to the Maidstone mainline				
Potential rail service to Gatwick				
Improving journeys in the Medway gap including walking and cycling network connections				
Tonbridge walking zone improvements as set out in our Kent Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (KCWIP)				

Q20a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Tonbridge and Malling or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. *If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.*

No comment.

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Q21. Do you agree with the proposals identified for the district of Tunbridge Wells? Select *one* response box per proposal/row.

Tunbridge Wells proposals	Yes	Partly	No	Don't know
A228-264 corridor improvements				
Bus Service Improvement Plan				
A21 Kipping's Cross junction and corridor improvements				
Reinstatement of services from Maidstone to Tonbridge via Paddock Wood				
Southborough walking zone improvements				
Improvements in Paddock Wood to improve walking, wheeling, and cycling journeys				

Q21a. If you would like to make any comments on the proposals for Tunbridge Wells or would like to suggest any new proposals for consideration in our Local Transport Plan, please tell us in the box below. *If your comment relates to a specific proposal, please make this clear in your answer.*

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No comment.

Section 5 – Any other comments on the draft Local Transport Plan

Q22. If you have any remaining comments on any other aspect of the draft Local Transport Plan, please provide these in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific section, please make this clear in your answer.

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The New Edenbridge and District Residents Association (NEDRA) would like to reiterate the lack of specific improvements targeted at Edenbridge in the Local Transport Plan. While there are some district-wide proposals, Edenbridge's unique challenges, such as poor road conditions, frequent flooding, and inadequate public transport services, remain unaddressed. Furthermore, the proposals for walking and cycling infrastructure in the town are minimal and do not align with the plan's ambition to support active travel or reduce carbon emissions. Without targeted investment in Edenbridge, the town risks being left behind in terms of transport improvements and climate action.

Additionally, the reliance on diesel trains and the reduction in train services are in direct conflict with the county's net-zero goals. There needs to be a stronger emphasis on enhancing public transport options and upgrading infrastructure to support sustainability.

We strongly urge KCC to consider more tailored solutions for Edenbridge that address both its immediate and long-term transport needs.

Additionally, when analysing the KCC Local Transport Plan 5, a serious concern emerges about the council's reliance on external finance, particularly from the UK government, to undertake vital transport projects. With approximately £2.6 billion to £3.1 billion required for transit improvements alone, plus an extra £320 million per year for developer-led programs and highway maintenance, the plan's reliance on government funds poses a considerable danger to its effective implementation.

This reliance exposes KCC to swings in national funding priorities and consequent delays in receiving critical financial assistance. The plan makes it clear that without this funding, major initiatives such as road safety upgrades through the Vision Zero approach and critical improvements to public transport infrastructure such as the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) may stall or fail to materialise.

What are the KCC contingency plans in the event that government funding falls short of expectations, to guarantee that Kent's transport network continues to fulfil the needs of its population?

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Section 6 – Supporting evidence base and assessments

Q23. If you have any comments on our Supporting Evidence Base for the draft Local Transport Plan, please provide these in the box below.

If your comment relates to a specific section, please make this clear in your answer.

No comment.

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To help ensure that we are meeting our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 we have prepared an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) of our Local Transport Plan.

An EqIA is a tool to assess the potential impact any proposals could have on the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. At KCC we also include carer's responsibilities. The EqIA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5 or in hard copy on request.

Q24. We welcome your views on our equality analysis. If you think there is anything we should consider relating to equality and diversity, please add your comments below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you within your response.

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No comment.

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We are required to develop a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to support the full final plan. We have prepared a HIA of our draft Local Transport Plan.

The HIA is used to identify the health and wellbeing impacts of the proposed plan to help us with our planning. The HIA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5 or in hard copy on request.

Q25. We welcome your views on our Health Impact Assessment. If you think there is anything we should consider relating to health and wellbeing, please add your comments below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you within your response.

No comment.

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We are required to develop a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to support the full final plan. We have prepared a SEA of our draft Local Transport Plan.

The SEA is used to identify the potential impacts of the proposed plan on environmental factors to help us with our planning. The SEA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5 or in hard copy on request.

Q26. We welcome your views on our Strategic Environmental Assessment. If you think there is anything we should consider relating to the environment, please add your comments below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you within your response.

No comment.

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We are required to develop a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) to support the full final plan. We have prepared a HRA of our draft Local Transport Plan.

The HRA is used to identify the potential impacts of the proposed plan on areas of Kent with particular environmental protections (Specifically Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Ramsar sites and areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a European site) to help us with our planning. The HRA is available online at www.kent.gov.uk/ltp5 or in hard copy on request.

Q27. We welcome your views on our Habitats Regulation Assessment. If you think there is anything we should consider relating to the findings of our assessment, please add your comments below.

Please do not include any personal information that could identify you within your response.

No comment.

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Section 7 – More about you

We want to make sure that everyone is treated fairly and equally, and that no one gets left out. That's why we are asking you these questions. We'll only use this information to help us make decisions and improve our services.

If you would rather not answer any of these questions, you don't have to.

It is not necessary to answer these questions if you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

Q28. Which of the following best describes your working status?

Select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Working full time
<input type="checkbox"/>	Working part time
<input type="checkbox"/>	On a zero-hours or similar casual contract
<input type="checkbox"/>	Temporarily laid off
<input type="checkbox"/>	Freelance/self employed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unemployed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Not working due to a disability or health condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Carer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Homemaker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retired
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other, please specify:

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NEDRA is an organisation of residents in Edenbridge. Questions 29 to 36 cannot be answered for an organisation.

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Q29. Are you...?

Select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Male
<input type="checkbox"/>	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q30. Is your gender the same as at your birth?

Select **one** option.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say

Q31. Which of these age groups applies to you?

Please select **one** option.

0-15	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-24	<input type="checkbox"/>	25-34	<input type="checkbox"/>	35-49	<input type="checkbox"/>	50-59	<input type="checkbox"/>
60-64	<input type="checkbox"/>	65-74	<input type="checkbox"/>	75-84	<input type="checkbox"/>	85+ over	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Q32. Do you regard yourself as belonging to a particular religion or holding a belief?

*Please select **one** option.*

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q32a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q32, which of the following applies to you?

*Please select **one** option.*

- Christian
- Buddhist
- Hindu
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Sikh
- Other
- I prefer not to say

If you selected Other, please specify:

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The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a long-standing physical or mental condition that has lasted, or is likely to last, at least 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis, and HIV/AIDS, for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Q33. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

Please select **one** option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q33a. If you answered 'Yes' to Q33, please tell us the type of impairment that applies to you.

You may have more than one type of impairment, so please select all that apply. If none of these applies to you, please select 'Other' and give brief details of the impairment you have.

- Physical impairment
- Sensory impairment (hearing, sight, or both)
- Long-standing illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV/AIDS, heart disease, diabetes, or epilepsy
- Mental health condition
- Learning disability
- I prefer not to say
- Other

Other, please specify:

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A Carer is anyone who provides unpaid care for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction, cannot cope without their support. Both children and adults can be carers.

Q34. Are you a Carer?

Select **one** option.

- Yes
- No
- I prefer not to say

Q35. Are you ...?

Select **one** option.

- Heterosexual/Straight
- Bi/Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman/Lesbian
- Other
- I prefer not to say

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Q36. To which of these ethnic groups do you feel you belong?

Select **one** option. (Source 2011 Census)

White English	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Scottish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Black African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Welsh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed White & Asian	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Northern Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Gypsy/Roma	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British African	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Irish Traveller	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black or Black British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>
White Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arab	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Pakistani	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer not to say	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Asian or Asian British Other*	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*Other - If your ethnic group is not specified on the list, please describe it here:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire; your feedback is important to us. All feedback received will be reviewed and considered to help finalise the Local Transport Plan 5.

We will report back on the feedback we receive, but details of individual responses will remain anonymous, and we will keep your personal details confidential.

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Closing date for responses: 7 October 2024.

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Last updated: 30 April 2023

Who are we?

We, Kent County Council (KCC), take our privacy obligations seriously and we've created this privacy policy to explain how we treat your personal information collected in this questionnaire. Personal information is information we hold which is identifiable as being about you.

Our collection, use and disclosure of your personal information is regulated under the United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018. We are responsible as 'controller' of that personal information for the purposes of those laws. Our Data Protection Officer is Benjamin Watts.

The personal information we collect and use

Information collected by us

In the course of responding to consultations published by Kent County Council we collect the following personal information when you provide it to us:

- responses to questionnaire / consultation
- equalities data collected through questionnaire response - age, sex, gender identity, ethnicity, religion or belief, sexuality, disability, pregnancy or maternity or if you are a Carer
- employment and education details
- postcode.

We ask you not to provide information that will identify you in your response in this questionnaire.

You do not need to submit any equalities or postcode information if you do not want to. KCC is committed to the principle that all our customers have the right to equality and fairness in the way they are treated and in the services that they receive. Any information you do give will be used to see if there are any differences in views for different groups of people, and to check if services are being delivered in a fair and reasonable way.

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We will not ask you to provide your name, email, or full home address. If you provide this information, it will not be entered into spreadsheets or databases used to process response data and will not be used in producing reports. We will follow our Data Protection policies to keep your information secure and confidential. Your equality data will be anonymised before it is shared with external organisations who have been commissioned on individual projects to undertake analysis and reporting on our engagement and consultation activities.

How we use your personal information

We collect and use this information in order to:

- understand your views about a particular topic or KCC activity
- analyse consultation and engagement activity
- inform KCC's future strategy, policy, service design and budget planning
- undertake equality monitoring.

We may use your postcode to analyse the geographical spread of responses and in some cases to understand in more detail how responses are impacted by location. We will only ask you for the first five characters of your postcode to avoid being able to identify specific households in less populated areas.

We may use your postcode to carry out a type of profiling to estimate which one of a number of lifestyle groups you are most likely to fall into. We do this using geodemographic segmentation tools. We do not make any decisions about individual service users based solely on automated processing, including profiling.

How long your personal data will be kept

We will hold any personal information provided by you in this questionnaire for up to six years following the closure of a consultation. Our Retention Policy is available from our website or on request.

We rely on UK GDPR Article 6(1)(e): 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' and Article 6(1)(c) 'for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject' as our lawful basis.

We rely on Article 9(2)(g) 'processing is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest' (statutory etc. and government purposes, equality of opportunity or treatment) as the lawful basis on which we collect and use your special category data.

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The processing is necessary for our statutory purposes including equalities monitoring or to understand the potential impact of proposals on conditions related to special category data within your response (e.g. when identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people with the view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained.) It is necessary for identifying or keeping under review the existence or absence of equality of opportunity or treatment between groups of people with the view to enabling such equality to be promoted or maintained. You can read [KCC's Equality Policy on our website](#) or on request.

Who we share your personal information with

We may share your personal data with those listed below:

- services within the Council who are responsible for the management of the engagement or consultation activity
- a third-party supplier who has been contracted to independently analyse the consultation responses
- organisations such as schools and academies with whom we may be consulting in partnership or on behalf of
- district or borough councils or government departments with whom we may be consulting in partnership or on behalf of.

We will share personal information with law enforcement or other authorities if required by applicable law.

Any personal information provided that could identify you will be removed before consultation results are published.

We use a system to log your feedback, which is provided by Granicus.

Your rights

Under UK GDPR you have a number of rights which you can access free of charge which allow you to:

- know what we are doing with your information and why we are doing it
- ask to see what information we hold about you
- ask us to correct any mistakes in the information we hold about you
- object to direct marketing
- make a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office.

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Depending on our reason for using your information you may also be entitled to:

- ask us to delete information we hold about you
- have your information transferred electronically to yourself or to another organisation
- object to decisions being made that significantly affect you
- object to how we are using your information
- stop us using your information in certain ways.

We will always seek to comply with your request; however, we may be required to hold or use your information to comply with legal duties.

For further information about your rights, including the circumstances in which they apply, see the [guidance from the UK Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) on individuals' rights under UK GDPR.

If you would like to exercise a right, please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk.

Keeping your personal information secure

We have appropriate security measures in place to prevent personal information from being accidentally lost or used or accessed in an unauthorised way. We limit access to your personal information to those who have a genuine business need to know it. Those processing your information will do so only in an authorised manner and are subject to a duty of confidentiality.

We also have procedures in place to deal with any suspected data security breach. We will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected data security breach where we are legally required to do so.

Who to contact

Please contact the Information Resilience and Transparency Team at data.protection@kent.gov.uk to exercise any of your rights, or if you have a complaint about why your information has been collected, how it has been used or how long we have kept it for.

You can contact our Data Protection Officer, Benjamin Watts, at dpo@kent.gov.uk. Or write to Data Protection Officer, Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ.

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The United Kingdom General Data Protection Regulation also gives you the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner who may be contacted at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns> or telephone 03031 231113.

For further information visit <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/about-the-website/privacy-statement>.