

**Agenda Item No:** 7

**Report To:** Joint Transportation Board

**Date:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011

**Report Title:** Amendment 19 - Proposed Highway Safety Scheme in Henwood Industrial Estate: Update Report

**Report Author:** Ray Wilkinson, Engineering Services Manager



**Summary:** At a meeting of the Board on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the decision was taken to approve the Amendment 19 Highway Safety Scheme in principle but defer implementation in order to allow further discussions with businesses/employers with a view to providing alternative parking solutions for their employees and visitors and an examination of the charging regime in Henwood Car Park.

This report is intended to update Members on the progress made to date on these issues.

**Key Decision:** NO

**Affected Wards:** Stour

**Financial Implications:** This scheme is being funded by Kent County Council Highways & Transportation

**Background Papers:** JTB report 'Proposed Introduction of Temporary Waiting Restrictions In Henwood Industrial Estate' dated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010

JTB report 'Amendment 19 - Proposed Highway Safety Scheme in Henwood Industrial Estate' dated 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Contacts:** ray.wilkinson@ashford.gov.uk – Tel: (01233) 330299

## **Report Title: Amendment 19 – Proposed Highway Safety Scheme in Henwood Industrial Estate: Update Report**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. At a meeting of the Board on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011, the decision was taken to approve the Amendment 19 Highway Safety Scheme in principle but defer implementation in order to allow further discussions with businesses/employers with a view to providing alternative parking solutions for their employees and visitors and an examination of the charging regime in Henwood Car Park.
2. This report is intended to update Members on the progress made to date on these issues.

### **Work to Date**

3. Officers met with the Kent Community Health NHS Trust on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011. The Trust site currently relies heavily on on-street parking due to the high density usage of the site and relatively low off-street parking provision. The Trust did however recognise the need for safety restrictions and agreed that the scheme proposals were necessary. During the course of the meeting a number of potential avenues for exploration were identified in order to minimise the on-street demand. These 'avenues' are currently being pursued by both the Trust and ABC Officers and include potential arrangements with other businesses on the Industrial Estate regarding the use of currently under-utilised parking facilities.
4. A survey was also letter dropped to all businesses on the Estate in order to request details of their parking demand and off-street facilities. A total of 21 of the 72 businesses completed and returned the survey. Initial analysis of the results indicates considerable variation in the intensity of parking demand as well as the hours during which the demand takes place and the off-street provision in place. However it did indicate that a number of businesses had a shortfall of off-street parking provision.

### **The Next Step**

5. Work is currently underway to pursue the various potential options identified at the meeting with the NHS Trust. In addition to this work it is also proposed to carry out a car count survey of on-street parking on the Henwood Industrial Estate to gain a more in depth understanding of current parking patterns. A third piece of work underway is the investigation of the cost and other implications of various potential changes to the Henwood Pay & Display Car Park.

## **Conclusion**

6. Once the above work has been completed it is intended to present a report to a future meeting of the Board detailing the results of these investigations and requesting approval to move forward with the implementation of the safety scheme. It should also be noted that since the presentation of the previous report Officers have been approached by some of the original complainants concerned by the delay in implementation of the scheme.

## **Portfolio Holder's Views**

7. This is a complex issue which Members and Officers are trying to resolve in a way which is acceptable to the businesses in the Henwood Industrial Park, does not unduly penalise the employees of these businesses but, at the same, does not have undesirable knock-on effects for other car parks, businesses and residential areas in Ashford. I ask the JTB to support the work which is in hand.

**Contact:** Ray Wilkinson (01233) 330299

**Email:** ray.wilkinson@ashford.gov.uk