

**Agenda Item No:****Report To:** Joint Transportation Board**Date of Meeting:** 1 March 2022**Report Title:** Extension of B Line to Finberry**Report Author:** Alison Oates**Job Title:** Community Safety and Wellbeing Manager**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Peter Feacey**Portfolio Holder for:** Community Safety and Wellbeing**Summary:**

The Ashford Joint Transportation Board (JTB) requested both county council and borough council officers make progress towards the opening the "Bus Only Northern Link Road" which runs between Damara Way (Bridgefield Estate) and Avocet Way (Finberry Estate), thereby extending the current bus route and providing additional connectivity for the residents of these estates.

An Ashford Borough Council officer meeting has recently taken place and an external stakeholder meeting is happening shortly to review the current situation and seek agreement on how the Northern Link Road can be opened and promoted.

This is an interim report to update the board on the current position, with a further report coming to the next board in June 2022.

**Key Decision:** NO**Significantly Affected Wards:** Kingsnorth Village and Bridgefield, Sevington South and Finberry, Park Farm North. Park Farm South**Recommendations:** **The Board is recommended to:-**

- I. Note the work that has been completed so far**
- II. Agree that the final report be presented to the Joint Transportation Board in June 2022**

## **Report Title: Extension of B Line to Finberry**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. The “Bus only Northern Link road” has remained closed for several years, due to unresolved matters linked to the roads adoption, bus gate enforcement and the commercial viability for the extended bus route.
2. Buses are vital for connecting people, homes and businesses. Opening this road is clearly important for the local community, providing additional connectivity as well as environmental and social benefits.
3. The extension will support wider county aspirations to develop bus services in line with the [www.kent.gov.uk/busfuture](http://www.kent.gov.uk/busfuture)

### **Current Position & Next Steps**

4. A Borough Council officer led meeting has been held involving officers from Planning, Legal, Finance and Community Safety and Wellbeing services.
5. The next phase is to convene a stakeholder meeting to resolve the issues as identified in paragraph 1 and seek commitment to open this link road and enable buses to operate in both estates. Invitations to this meeting are being sent to Kent County Council and Stagecoach.
6. A further report will be presented to the next board in June 2022.

### **Contact and Email**

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