

10 October 2016

## **20's Plenty Faversham Working Group Response to 'Delivering Growth Without Gridlock' Plan**

20's Plenty Faversham Working Group is developing plans for a 20mph speed limit in Faversham against the background of the need to make walking and cycling in Faversham a more attractive and safer option. We have the following observations about the KCC Local Transport Plan 'Delivering Growth Without Gridlock' currently out for consultation.

- Overall the plan focuses on strategic road and rail travel with very little focus on active and local travel: without looking at these aspects of travel together, improved roads will lead to more cars on the roads. It is not clear who the 'growth' in the plan will benefit.
- There is an acknowledgment in the plan (p5) that increasingly people will work where they live, yet the focus on the plan seems to be almost entirely on journeys across the county.
- Although the need to promote 'active travel choices', enhance road safety and improve health and wellbeing are cited as aims of the plan, there is very little detail on how this might be delivered, and no indication that this would involve a significant shift away from car use.. On p23 it is stated that Kent seeks to become a pioneering county for active travel – this is laughable given the lack of focus on this in the plan. Although there is mention of providing new pedestrian and cycle routes as part of new developments, adding a few cycle lanes onto fundamentally car-centred developments would not bring about such a shift.
- There is no acknowledgment of the role 20mph areas can play in delivering both enhanced safety and a shift to active travel, despite widespread support and 20s Plenty groups in operation across Kent.
- The section on journeys to school makes no reference to the need to encourage active travel to school, and the role 20mph zones can play in making this a safer option.
- There is no mention of Faversham in the plan, despite it being at the centre of plans for housing growth in Swale, and therefore a local context where the need for a shift to active travel is extremely pressing. If KCC is really committed to active travel, it should advocate significant funds to test innovative plans and approaches in key areas, including 20mph zones.

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On behalf of 20s Plenty for Faversham