

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Flyover demolition and bus, taxi and cycle route construction

Q. Why are these works happening?

A. The principle of the removal of the flyover and the creation of a public transport corridor on its route was originally set out in the Chatham Centre and Waterfront Development Framework which was consulted on in March to April 2004 and was adopted in July 2004. Since then the proposals were carried forward into the Chatham Centre and Waterfront Development Brief 2008 (which was consulted upon in Summer 2007), and the Council's cabinet gave approval to the works (alongside the rest of Phase 2 of the road scheme) in June 2008.

Links:

[Chatham Centre & Waterfront Development Framework 2004 – www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture](http://www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture)

[Chatham Centre & Waterfront Consultation Draft SPD 2007 – www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture](http://www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture)

[Chatham Centre & Waterfront Development Brief 2008 – www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture](http://www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture)

[Cabinet Report 24th June 2008 – www.medway.gov.uk/cabinetdecisions-past_issues.asp?ID=1374](http://www.medway.gov.uk/cabinetdecisions-past_issues.asp?ID=1374)

These works are intended to open up the town centre to the waterfront increasing the ease of movement by foot from the town centre to the waterfront along the High Street, to enable development of sites on the waterfront and Sir John Hawkins Way to come forward, and to increase the reliability and therefore attractiveness of public transport.

Q. When will the roadworks commence?

A.

Closure of Sir John Hawkins Way Car Park	Feb	
Start works on site	Feb	
Construct temporary bus-route & widen Manor Road	Feb	13 weeks
Close flyover	May	
Demolish flyover	May	10 weeks
New bus-route construction	July/ Aug	8 weeks
Construction of new dynamic bus-station	January 2010	subject to planning approval

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Q. What is proposed?

A. The first stage of the works is the closure of Sir John Hawkins Way Car Park in order to construct a temporary bus route. This will be followed by the closure of and demolition of the flyover. Finally a new route will be constructed on this line of the flyover at ground level to take buses, taxis, and cycles. The temporary route will be used by buses, taxis and cycles while the flyover is being demolished and the new public transport route is constructed.

Q. Are these works linked to any others taking place?

A. These works follow the completion of Phase 1 of the Chatham Road Scheme which involved changing the traffic flows in The Brook and Best Street from one way to two-way and closing the Sir John Hawkins Way flyover to all vehicles except buses, taxis and emergency service vehicles. After this current stage of the works, further road improvements are proposed to Union Street, Gibraltar Hill, and the Brook, and the new bus facility will be constructed in Globe Lane.

[Cabinet Report 24th June 2008 – www.medway.gov.uk/cabinetdecisions-past_issues.asp?ID=1374](http://www.medway.gov.uk/cabinetdecisions-past_issues.asp?ID=1374)

Q. How long will the temporary bus-route take to complete?

A. Approximately 13 weeks.

Q. How long will it be in operation for?

A. Approximately 7 months.

Q. Where can I see a map of the temporary bus-route?

A. All Medway Council contact points and the Arriva Shop in the Pentagon,.

Q. Where can I find a copy of the Chatham Town Centre and Waterfront Development framework?

A. www.medway.gov.uk/chathamfuture

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Q. Where can I find a copy of the plan of the temporary traffic arrangements ?

A. the document can be downloaded from the council's website or studied at any of the council's contact points.

Q. Does my council tax pay for any of these works?

A. This project is funded entirely by a grant from central government – the Thames Gateway Programme administered by the Homes and Communities Agency.

Q. How much will these works cost?

A. This stage of the works will cost approximately £1.6m

Q. When will the flyover be demolished?

A. Currently scheduled for Mid-May.

Q. How long will the flyover demolition take to be completed?

A. Approximately 10 weeks.

Q. Will there be any changes to bus running times?

A. There may be some minor changes to the timetables for bus services using the temporary diversion route. The bus companies are currently considering these and details will be available nearer to the time that the diversion route comes into operation in May 2009.

Q. Which bus routes will be affected?

A. The bus routes affected will be those that pass Chatham Railway Station or use New Cut (past Wickes) on their way to or from Chatham.

These include:-

Arriva

100, 101, 105, 133, 134, 135, 136, 140, 141, 151, 155, 172, 173, 176, 184, 185, 191, 193, 700, 701

Journeys on other services which divert to serve Chatham Railway Station will also be affected

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ASD

156, 197

Chalkwell

151 (Saturdays)

Kent Top Travel

135 (Sundays)

Q. Why is the temporary route only for buses and taxis? Why can't other traffic use it?

A. The temporary route is much narrower than the flyover and is not designed or intended to cope with all the traffic that currently uses the flyover. The route that will replace the flyover is to be bus, taxi, and cycles only. From the time that the flyover is closed for demolition general traffic will therefore need to use its new permanent route around the two way system.

Q. How will you stop other traffic from using the temporary bus-route?

A. The correct route for general traffic will be clearly signed. No entry signs will also be used. We may also use camera enforcement at no entry signs.

Q. Why do buses need a different route?

A. It is important that buses run as close to timetable as possible and can reach the bus station easily. The entrance to the bus station is from Military Road for most services.

Q. What happens to Manor Road during the works? Will I still be able to use Manor Road?

A. Manor Road will still be available for access and local traffic and is not intended to be used by through traffic. There will be temporary traffic lights during the operation of the temporary bus route, and you may therefore have to wait at extra traffic lights at the bottom to allow a bus to move along the High Street at the bottom of the hill. Bear in mind that buses will be using that part of the route in both directions which is why the lights are needed.

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Q. What happens to Medway Street during the works?

A. General traffic will be able to use the car park and get to and from the businesses in Medway Street during the works. However traffic will not be allowed to turn into Medway Street from Globe Lane. After this temporary period general traffic will continue to have access to Medway Street to its junction with Globe Lane, but not beyond, as Globe Lane will become part of the public transport route.

Q. Will the traffic lights at the junction of Globe Lane and Medway Street still be working during the works?

A. The traffic lights will still be there as some vehicles, including buses, will need to cross from Medway Street to Military Road. This will be kept under review during the work as we will be trying to keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible.

Q. I need to get from Rochester to Chatham Maritime and back – how will my route be affected?

A. There are two options which will have about the same journey time. From Rochester you can go to Strood and turn onto Station Road and follow the signs to Medway City Estate and go through the tunnel. Alternatively use the A2 New Road turning left at Union Street (towards Tesco) then follow the Brook to Dock Road.

Q. Maidstone Road to Chatham Maritime

A. From Maidstone Road in Chatham the most direct route is to turn right onto Best Street at the bottom of Railway Street, then left onto Union Street (towards Tesco) and follow the Brook. Alternatively turn onto Gibraltar Hill and follow the A2 to Union Street.

Q. Rochester to Gillingham

A. It depends what part of Gillingham is the destination. If it is the hospital area then the A2 and Chatham Hill. If Brompton or lower Gillingham then the tunnel is one option, if not then the route is the same as for Chatham Maritime using the A2 and the Brook.

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Q. My business is located on High St/Manor Road/Medway St – how will I get access for deliveries during the works? How will customers get to me?

A. Due to the complexity of the scheme there will be some disruption during the works. The aim will be to ensure the minimum of disruption to deliveries. Although works for widening Manor Road will be happening it will still be available for access and local traffic but not intended for through-traffic. Temporary traffic lights will be installed for the temporary bus-route giving priority to buses both ways.

Q. How will the High Street be affected while the flyover is being demolished? How long will the High Street be closed?

A. The intention is to take out the section off the fly-over that spans the High Street in a long weekend. This will mean that the High Street will be closed at the fly-over. Pedestrian access will be maintained to all shops and businesses. Plenty of advanced notice to this closure will be provided. The remainder of the fly-over will be demolished in sections and the High Street will be narrowed to allow for working space but access for deliveries and pedestrians will be maintained.

Q. What is being done to minimise disruption to nearby businesses?

A. There will be some inconvenience while work is being carried out in the High Street itself. During this time areas will be set aside for the parking of delivery vehicles and we will be notifying businesses of the best route to use as the work progresses.

Q. What will be done to minimise the noise/dust etc.?

A. There will inevitably noise and dust from this type of major work. However, the contractor and Council will be monitoring this and this will be kept to a minimum.

Q. What will happen to the space where the flyover is?

A. Once the flyover is knocked down a permanent bus, taxi and cycle route will be constructed at ground level in its place. High quality materials will be used to build an attractive area and new pedestrian crossing where the new bus route crosses the High Street.

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Q. When are the works proposed for Union Street?

A. Late Summer 2009.

Q. What is happening to the Theatre Royal?

A. The Council acknowledges the Theatre Royal is an eyesore however it is a listed building and whilst consent has been given for the Theatre (with the exception of the frontage part) to be demolished, that consent was subject to conditions which requires the recording of the historic interior of the building. This recording work is ongoing and it is hoped that it will be complete very soon enabling the building to be demolished. The Council is in regular contact with the land owners.

Q. Why must I pay for the Adopted Brief? (£10).

A. This is a high quality 120 page document and the charge is to cover the printing costs. You can access the document free of charge on the [chathamfuture](http://chathamfuture.com) website or you can request a copy of the free 8-page summary leaflet.

Q. Will you be replacing the car-parking spaces lost when Sir John Hawkins Way Car Park closes?

A. You will remember that in 2007, extra car parking was provided at Globe Lane. This was to prepare for the loss of spaces which will be taken from Sir John Hawkins Way.