

Thurrock - An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future

## Lower Thames Crossing Task Force

The meeting will be held at **6.00 pm** on **19 September 2022**

**Committee Room 2, CO3, Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL**

### Membership:

Councillors Fraser Massey (Chair), John Kent (Vice-Chair), Gary Byrne, Sara Muldowney, Augustine Ononaji, Terry Piccolo, Kairen Raper and Sue Sammons

### Agenda

Open to Public and Press

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<b>2 Minutes</b>	<b>5 - 8</b>
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force meeting held on 20 June 2022.	
<b>3 Items of Urgent Business</b>	
To receive additional items that the Chair is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
<b>4 Declaration of Interests</b>	
<b>5 National Highways Presentation (to follow)</b>	
<b>6 Development Consent Order Process Overview: Verbal Update</b>	
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**Queries regarding this Agenda or notification of apologies:**

Please contact Lucy Tricker, Senior Democratic Services Officer by sending an email to [direct.democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:direct.democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)

Agenda published on: **9 September 2022**

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### Access to Information and Meetings

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# DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

Breaching those parts identified as a pecuniary interest is potentially a criminal offence

## Helpful Reminders for Members

- *Is your register of interests up to date?*
- *In particular have you declared to the Monitoring Officer all disclosable pecuniary interests?*
- *Have you checked the register to ensure that they have been recorded correctly?*

## When should you declare an interest *at a meeting*?

- **What matters are being discussed at the meeting?** (including Council, Cabinet, Committees, Subs, Joint Committees and Joint Subs); or
- If you are a Cabinet Member making decisions other than in Cabinet **what matter is before you for single member decision?**



Does the business to be transacted at the meeting

- relate to; or
- likely to affect

any of your registered interests and in particular any of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests shall include your interests or those of:

- your spouse or civil partner's
- a person you are living with as husband/ wife
- a person you are living with as if you were civil partners

where you are aware that this other person has the interest.

A detailed description of a disclosable pecuniary interest is included in the Members Code of Conduct at Chapter 7 of the Constitution. **Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer about disclosable pecuniary interests.**

**What is a Non-Pecuniary interest?** – this is an interest which is not pecuniary (as defined) but is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard to be so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest.

### Pecuniary

If the interest is not already in the register you must (unless the interest has been agreed by the Monitoring Officer to be sensitive) disclose the existence and nature of the interest to the meeting

If the Interest is not entered in the register and is not the subject of a pending notification you must within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the register

Unless you have received dispensation upon previous application from the Monitoring Officer, you must:

- Not participate or participate further in any discussion of the matter at a meeting;
- Not participate in any vote or further vote taken at the meeting; and
- leave the room while the item is being considered/voted upon

If you are a Cabinet Member you may make arrangements for the matter to be dealt with by a third person but take no further steps

### Non- pecuniary

Declare the nature and extent of your interest including enough detail to allow a member of the public to understand its nature



You may participate and vote in the usual way but you should seek advice on Predetermination and Bias from the Monitoring Officer.

## Our Vision and Priorities for Thurrock

An ambitious and collaborative community which is proud of its heritage and excited by its diverse opportunities and future.

1. **People** – a borough where people of all ages are proud to work and play, live and stay
  - High quality, consistent and accessible public services which are right first time
  - Build on our partnerships with statutory, community, voluntary and faith groups to work together to improve health and wellbeing
  - Communities are empowered to make choices and be safer and stronger together
  
2. **Place** – a heritage-rich borough which is ambitious for its future
  - Roads, houses and public spaces that connect people and places
  - Clean environments that everyone has reason to take pride in
  - Fewer public buildings with better services
  
3. **Prosperity** – a borough which enables everyone to achieve their aspirations
  - Attractive opportunities for businesses and investors to enhance the local economy
  - Vocational and academic education, skills and job opportunities for all
  - Commercial, entrepreneurial and connected public services

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force held on 20 June 2022 at 6.00 pm

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- Present:** Councillors Fraser Massey (Chair), John Kent (Vice-Chair), Gary Byrne, Terry Piccolo, Kairen Raper and Sue Sammons
- Apologies:** Councillors Sara Muldowney and Augustine Ononaji  
Westley Mercer, Thurrock Business Board Representative
- In attendance:** Colin Black, Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery  
Lucy Tricker, Senior Democratic Services Officer
- Chris Stratford, Senior Consultant Stantec, engaged by Thurrock Council
- Laura Blake, Thames Crossing Action Group Representative  
Robert Quick, Resident Representative
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Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting was being live-streamed and recorded, with the recording to be made available on the Council's website.

### 1. **Nomination of Chair**

Councillor Fraser Massey was elected as Chair of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force for the 2022/23 municipal year.

### 2. **Nomination of Vice-Chair**

Councillor John Kent was elected as Vice-Chair of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force for the 2022/23 municipal year.

### 3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting from the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force held on 14 March 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

### 4. **Items of Urgent Business**

The Chair explained that there was one item of urgent business regarding a letter that had been sent from the Council to the Treasury.

The Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery stated that the Council had written to the Treasury as the value for money for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) scheme had appeared to decrease, and the Council were requesting that this opportunity to modify the scheme to improve its value for money be explored more fully before Development Consent

Order (DCO) submission. The Chair welcomed the letter and felt it was detailed and clearly set out the Council's position. The Vice-Chair echoed these comments and felt that the best way to ensure that this scheme did not go ahead was to prove that it did not provide value for money. The Thames Crossing Action Group (TCAG) Representative thanked officers for their hard work on the letter and felt that it echoed the points that had been made by the Task Force over recent years.

The Chair reminded residents that the consultation was due to close at 11.59pm on Monday 20 June 2022 and urged residents to fill out the consultation.

## **5. Declaration of Interests**

There were no interests declared.

## **6. LTC Consultation Response (to follow)**

The Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery explained that the document would outline the Council's response to the consultation and that it was agreed that it would be submitted to Full Council. He stated that National Highways (NH) had allowed the Council until 4 July 2022 to allow the response to pass through governance processes before submission.

The Senior Consultant Stantec stated that the consultation response was divided into four sections. He explained that the first section was a 10-page summary document and introduction, which would be presented to Full Council. He stated that the second section dealt with prematurity and adequacy of consultation. He stated that the team had considered the LRC consultation was premature as the Council had only just received the traffic modelling data; and no Health Impact Assessment (HIA) or air quality and noise assessment results had been received to understand impacts or mitigation. He stated that officers had also deemed the consultation as inadequate as there had been no consultation events in Chadwell St Mary or South Ockendon, and the consultation had only been for a period of five and a half weeks, rather than eight weeks, which was preferred by the Council and provided by NH in the previous consultation. The Senior Consultant Stantec explained that section three of the response provided a summary of technical issues, and section four dealt with the response to the 26 changes outlined in the consultation, of which 15 were in Thurrock. The Senior Consultant Stantec explained that this section responded to areas such as the Community Involvement Consultation response; modelling changes; changes to the A13/Orsett Cock junction; Tilbury Fields; Tilbury Operational Access; utilities; cyclists and horse-riders (WCH) rights of way; landscaping around the A13 Junction and North Road; air quality and noise impacts; land and property compensation; nitrogen impacts and mitigation; health, equalities and wellbeing; and climate change and decarbonisation.

The Chair thanked officers for their hard work in preparing the Council's response and asked if officers could submit the response as soon as possible



for Full Council, to ensure Members could read and make appropriate comment. The Chair queried how many changes to the scheme had been proposed since 2018. The Senior Consultant Stantec replied that most changes were outlined in the various consultation 'Guides', but approximately 100-150 changes had been made since 2018, with approximately 20-30 of these categorised as significant changes. The Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery added that many residents appeared confused by the ad-hoc nature of the consultations and were unaware of the full scheme and its impact, and asked if Members could help ensure that their residents understood the potential impacts relevant to them.

The Chair queried the raised areas of land around the A13. The Senior Consultant Stantec stated that this was outlined in the Guide on page 65, but listed areas such as along Stifford Clays Road, where the earth bund would rise approximately 15m above existing ground level; and alongside the existing A13 where the earth bund would rise approximately 10m above existing ground level. He explained that the area to the east of the proposed relocated travellers' site would also contain a raised earth bund. He explained that NH had excess spoil to remove, due to the proposed shrinkage of Tilbury Fields, and these raised areas would be used for this spoil, as well as to mitigate noise impacts. The Senior Consultant Stantec added that officers were concerned regarding the height of the bunds, and whether or not planting would succeed due to their steepness. The Chair questioned if NH would pay Thurrock Council compensation if the LTC reduced capacity on the A13. The Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery responded that the Council were involved in ongoing conversations with NH and the Department for Transport on this issue. The Chair queried if NH were proposing on making the A13 a trunk road. The Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery stated that NH had proposed to trunk a section of the A13 and A1014, to make it part of the strategic road network. He stated that officers were currently seeking clarification of these proposals from NH.

The Resident Representative queried how spoil would be moved from the tunnel entrance to the proposed earth bund areas. He stated that at the recent consultation in East Tilbury he had questioned NH officers on the number of vehicle movements, and they had confirmed that there would be approximately 130 vehicle movements per day on East Tilbury Road and Muckingford Road into the construction area. The Resident Representative confirmed that this number would be double, as NH counted one round trip as one vehicle movement. The Senior Consultant Stantec stated that the greater proportion of the spoil would be used on Tilbury Fields, but any other spoil would be moved through internal haul roads. He explained that there were currently gaps in NH internal haul road plans, including at the railway line in East Tilbury. He stated that the Council had recently received an updated Construction Cordon Model and were working hard to review this data to determine impacts. The Assistant Director Regeneration and Place Delivery added that NH planned approach was to build the viaduct first, although this could take two years to complete. He stated that the Council were also promoting the idea of a new bridge at East Tilbury over the railway line, which

had originally been promised as part of the scheme, but had now been withdrawn due to funding issues within NH, although alternative funding mechanisms were now being investigated by NH.

The Chair summarised and stated that the Task Force agreed with the broad approach outlined by officers for the consultation response and urged residents to complete the consultation.

## **7. Work Programme**

The Chair stated that NH would be invited to the July meeting, which could be an in-person meeting, and the Health Impact Assessment would be added as a verbal update to every future meeting.

**The meeting finished at 6.49 pm**

Approved as a true and correct record

**CHAIR**

**DATE**

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact  
Democratic Services at [Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk)**

**Lower Thames Crossing Task Force  
Work Programme 2022/23**

Dates of Meetings: 20 June 2022, 18 July 2022, 22 August 2022, 19 September 2022, 17 October 2022, 14 November 2022, 12 December 2022, 23 January 2023, 20 February 2023, 20 March 2023, 24 April 2023

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Lead Officer</b>	<b>Requested by Officer/Member</b>
<b>20 June 2022</b>		
Nomination of Chair	Democratic Services	Officers
Nomination of Vice-Chair	Democratic Services	Officers
LTC Consultation Response	Colin Black	Officers
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>18 July 2022 - CANCELLED</b>		
<b>22 August 2022 - CANCELLED</b>		
<b>19 September 2022</b>		
National Highways Presentation	Colin Black	Members
Development Consent Order Process Overview: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>17 October 2022</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers

<b>14 November 2022</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>12 December 2022</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>23 January 2023</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>20 February 2023</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>20 March 2023</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers
<b>24 April 2023</b>		
Health Impact Assessment: Verbal Update	Colin Black	Members
Work Programme	Democratic Services	Officers

**Clerk:** Lucy Tricker

**Last updated:** 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022