

Lower Thames Crossing Task Force

Briefing Note: Lower Thames Crossing Resource Requirements

Purpose of the briefing note: To provide background on how Thurrock will invest to ensure the Lower Thames Crossing proposals are appropriately challenged and any eventual Development Consent Order (DCO) Application is mitigated.

- 1.1 Thurrock Council has a statutory responsibility to respond to Highways England's proposed crossing of the Thames. As a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project the impact on Thurrock will be extensive and it is crucial that Thurrock fully assesses and scrutinises all aspects of the proposals
- 1.2 In order to hold Highways England to account Thurrock Council has made available £380,000 to challenge, investigate, and seek appropriate changes to location, design and operation of the scheme as well as fully understand and influence the environmental and social impacts.
- 1.3 Thurrock Council is engaged in discussions with Highways England and in due course the Council will be required to formally respond as part of the statutory process. Through the selection and appointment of specific expertise Thurrock intends to protect its position and safeguard the local community and natural environment from inappropriate development.
- 1.4 Resources will ensure
 - A thorough review of all key scheme components to determine the nature of impact and how any impact might be mitigated. This would include all key elements expected within an Environmental Statement for a road scheme including:-
 - Traffic Impacts across the strategic road network and local road network and consideration of alternative strategies including development of local and strategic public transport;
 - Health impact assessment;
 - Air quality and noise;

- The physical scheme impacts including impacts to environment, bio-diversity, geology and flooding;
 - Landscape impacts, visual intrusion, community severance, cultural impacts;
 - Economic Impacts including analysis of where there is potential value to the local Thurrock Economy
- Planning Expertise to ensure Highways England, as Applicant, complies with all relevant planning process
 - Expert guidance to the Task Force and local members as to how the scheme might be modified, mitigated or improved and the appropriate strategy for securing this from Highways England.

1.5 Thurrock Council's approach to investments as set out in the Treasury Management Strategy has enabled this funding to be made available. It will support the Council in making its statutory response to the DCO and ensure the priorities set by the task Force are reflected by Highways England in the justification for the scheme and all appropriate mitigation.

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

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