

Lower Thames Crossing Task Force

Briefing Note: Update on liaison with Highways England

Purpose of the briefing note: To provide background on the ongoing engagement between Thurrock Council and Highways England. March 2018

1.1 Following the Preferred Route Announcement last summer, Highways England has had a series of ad hoc contacts with Thurrock Council. Thurrock has been keen to ensure appropriate, regular and consistent interaction in order to challenge and review substantive items. Since September 2017 the LTC Task Force has continued to reinforce to Highways England the requirement for their structured engagement.

Officers continue to emphasise concern to Highways England that the Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) choice was unsound and that there is no contemporary evidence base that justifies the scheme. Equally, Officers continue to demand that Highways England fully reflect local demands for better design, all appropriate mitigation and removal of harm caused by the scheme such that any eventual Application captures the full scheme impacts and cost to Thurrock.

1.2 Ward Member Meetings

Highways England has not advised of any meetings with Ward Councillors since the 19th February 2018.

1.3 Closed Session of Highways England to Councillors

Highways England offered to present to local councillors a range of contemporary information and facilitate debate on key areas of concern. This followed a session that HE held in December with Gravesham Borough Councillors. Contemporary material was shared and in depth conversations with relevant technical experts took place. A separate summary note has been produced.

1.4 Other contact with Highways England

Weekly 'Technical Meetings' are now being set up between Thurrock Officers and consultants working on behalf of Highways England.

The following relating to LTC has been considered at specific sessions since the last update:-

- Visual Impacts – following the delay this has naturally featured as a substantive theme.
- Community Consultation – how HE might undertake proper and meaningful consultation.

The content of these meetings will include all the respective priorities of the Task Force as well as specific items as demanded within the Planning process.

The above excludes various emails and ad hoc phone calls.

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

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