

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. April 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 Meetings with Highways England

One meeting was held in late March and the focus of that was meeting was health impacts associated with the crossing. . Thurrock Officers met with the LTC team and sought clarification as to how health impact might be assessed and underlined the previous requests for an HIA.

Owing to Easter no meetings have occurred during April which reflects issues associated with diaries / pre-arranged leave by both Highways England, their consultants and Thurrock Officers.

A meeting convened by Highways England on the matter of tunnel design and safety has been held since the last Task Force. This is occurs every 8-10 weeks and key representatives (both sides of the River) include Police, Fire & Rescue and Local Council representatives are invited.

The above excludes various Letters, emails and ad hoc phone calls.

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

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