

<b>10 December 2018</b>	<b>ITEM: 5</b>
<b>Lower Thames Crossing Task Force</b>	
Statutory Consultation Response	
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Anna Eastgate, Assistant Director – Lower Thames Crossing	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Steve Cox, Corporate Director Place	
<b>This report is: Public</b>	

## **Executive Summary**

The proposed Thurrock Council response to Highways England’s statutory consultation on the proposed Lower Thames Crossing is attached to this report and covers the Council’s response as a Local Authority and a land owner.

This response will be considered by Full Council on 11 December 2018.

### **1. Recommendations**

**1.1 That the Task Force comments on the Council’s proposed response to Highways England on the Lower Thames Crossing consultation.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 The attached report sets out the proposed response of the Council to the Statutory Consultation from Highways England (HE) on the proposals for the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) which commenced on 10 October 2018 and closes on 20 December 2018.

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

3.1 The Council’s consultation response as a Local Authority statutory consultee is set out in full at Appendix A. The response is detailed and includes a technical assessment of the consultation scheme. The Council’s proposed position in relation to the consultation scheme has three strands as follows:-

- (i) the Council has an in-principle objection to the proposal as it gives rise to substantial harm to the borough;
- (ii) the consultation material has substantial information gaps, inaccurate assessments and under reporting of impacts, such that the effect of the scheme has not been and cannot be properly considered and;
- (iii) if the scheme were to proceed, there will need to be substantial changes to mitigate and compensate for the worst of its impacts

(although the Council does not believe full mitigation of these impacts can be secured).

- 3.2 The summary of the detail of the proposed consultation response is as follows. On the basis of the consultation information provided, including the information set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR), the following conclusions and recommendations to HE are presented in this report:
- 3.2.1 The Consultation Scheme does not meet several of the national and HE's strategic policy tests and scheme objectives, particularly relating to option testing, the delivery of economic growth and achieving sustainable local growth;
- 3.2.2 The Consultation Scheme does not make provision for, and is inconsistent with, the housing and development potential for Thurrock and the aspirations for the Borough and for the wider South Essex area as set out in the emerging Local Plan;
- 3.2.3 There are specific design elements of the Consultation Scheme which require modification and/or further consideration by HE in order to contribute to meeting the Government's and LTC's policy and scheme objectives. These are:
- a. Re-instatement of the Tilbury Link Road into the Consultation Scheme;
  - b. Options for alternative sites inside and outside the Borough for the proposed Rest and Services Area (RaSA) proposed in East Tilbury;
  - c. Reconfiguration of the A13 connections: Orsett Cock junction, A13 widening works and Manor Way junction, and the alignment of Rectory Road;
  - d. Alternative design options for the treatment of the crossing through the Mardyke Valley to reduce potential adverse environmental effects;
  - e. Alternative design options for the treatment of the viaduct over the Tilbury Loop Line to reduce potential adverse environmental effects;
  - f. Consideration and assessment of suitable alternative locations for the Traveller site at Gammon Field which will be affected by the LTC and;
  - g. Proposed physical design mitigation to address potential adverse effects on the Borough's residents eg bunds, cut and cover tunnels or lowering vertical alignment particularly where it is close to residential areas.
- 3.3 A summary of the Council's position in terms of affected landholdings can be found in Appendix A.

**4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Task Force are asked to consider and comment on the Council's response to the statutory consultation ahead of the Full Council meeting on 11 December 2018.

**5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 As set out in attached Full Council paper.

**6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

As set out in attached Full Council paper.

**7. Implications**

**7.1 Financial**

As set out in attached Full Council paper.

**7.2 Legal**

As set out in attached Full Council paper.

**7.3 Diversity and Equality**

As set out in attached Full Council paper.

**8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):**

None.

**9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix A – Full Council paper - Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) – Consultation Response

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