

15 January 2020		ITEM: 10
Cabinet		
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Councillor Gerard Rice, Chair of the LTC Task Force		
Accountable Assistant Director: Anna Eastgate, Assistant Director - Lower Thames Crossing and Transport Infrastructure Projects		
Accountable Director: Andy Millard, Director of Place		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

In line with the Terms of Reference, the LTC Task Force is required to report to Cabinet on its work.

- 1. Recommendation(s)**
 - 1.1 That Cabinet notes the work of the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force.**
- 2. Introduction and Background**
 - 2.1 The Lower Thames Crossing Task Force has met on a monthly basis since September 2017. Cabinet received a previous update on 10 July 2019.
 - 2.2 The Council remains opposed in principle to any new crossing in Thurrock and the task force has consistently sought to hold Highways England to account. The long-held concern regarding obtaining responses and key information continues to hamper the Council's ability to properly assess and scrutinise the scheme.
 - 2.3 Highways England has conducted statutory consultation on the scheme which ended on 20 December 2018. Details of the Task Force's discussions following the consultation to date are detailed below.
- 3. Task Force Meetings**
 - 3.1 All Task Force meetings are audio recorded and available on the Thurrock Council website.
 - 3.2 Full minutes of the meetings are also available on the website. Below is a summary of the discussions at each meeting:

July

- 3.3 Highways England presented on the progress to date of the work related to the Health Impact Assessment. Quarterly meetings have been taking place between officers and LTC and the meetings are chaired by an independent academic from Leeds University.
- 3.4 The Chair ran through the Priorities list where questions of clarification were asked and addressed.

August

- 3.5 The August meeting of the Task Force was cancelled due to lack of business.

September

- 3.6 The Council's health team provided some further feedback and a note in relation to the ongoing health impact assessment work.
- 3.7 The Chair ran through the priorities list where questions of clarification were asked and addressed.

October

- 3.8 Officers presented a report on the high level assessment work that had been undertaken to date in relation to the traffic modelling. The Council is awaiting the updated traffic model from Highways England in order to undertake further analysis.
- 3.9 Officers indicated that discussions had taken place with the Planning Inspectorate in relation to concerns about the level of engagement and information sharing. A recommendation from the Planning Inspectorate was to agree a memorandum of understanding with HE in relation to ways of working. That was tabled at the meeting and the agreement of the Task Force obtained as an agreed approach to share with Highways England. Some photographs of the A14 River Great Ouse viaduct were shared with the Task Force. The viaduct at Tilbury is likely to be of a similar scale and size and therefore it was shared to enable the Task Force members to gain an appreciation of what a viaduct in that location could look like.
- 3.10 The Chair ran through the Priorities list where questions of clarification were asked and addressed.

November

- 3.11 The November meeting of the Task Force was cancelled.

December

- 3.12 Highways England were invited to the meeting to present a report on opportunities and restrictions on the provision of cut and cover across the route

through the Borough.

- 3.13 The Chair ran through the priorities list which had been reviewed by officers since the previous meeting.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 In line with the terms of reference the LTC Task Force will update Cabinet.

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

- 5.1 Lower Thames Crossing Task Force

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

- 6.1 None

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Rosie Hurst**
Interim Senior Management Accountant

There are no specific financial implications arising from the report and the work is funded from within existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Courage Emovon**
AG Strategic Lead / Deputy Head of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer

This is an update report from the Lower Thames Crossing Task Force and there is no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

There are no diversity implications arising from this report.

- 7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children)

None

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

- None

Report Author:

Anna Eastgate

Assistant Director – Lower Thames Crossing and Transport Infrastructure Projects

Place