

10 March 2021		ITEM: 10
		Decision: 110557
Cabinet		
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force Update Report		
Wards and communities affected:	Key Decision:	
All	Key	
Report of: Councillor Fraser Massey, Chair of the LTC Task Force		
Accountable Assistant Director: Anna Eastgate, Assistant Director - Lower Thames Crossing and Project Delivery		
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 taskforce

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 11 November 2020.

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. A new team at Highways England has meant that in recent months there has been a greater level of information sharing and improved collaboration between the parties

2.3 Highways England conducted a statutory consultation on the scheme which ended on 20 December 2018 and two subsequent consultations in 2020. Details of the Task Force's discussions following the consultations to date are detailed below.

2.4 Highways England submitted its Development Consent Order (DCO) application in October and the Council submitted an adequacy of consultation response at the request of the Planning Inspectorate. As a consequence of issues with the application and consultation, Highways England took the decision to withdraw its application.

3. Task Force meetings

- 3.1 All Task Force meetings are audio recorded and available on the Thurrock Council website. Since the impacts of Covid-19 the meetings have been held as either hybrid or virtual meetings on teams.
- 3.2 Full minutes of the meetings are also available on the website. Below is a summary of the discussions at each meeting:

December

- 3.3 A verbal report was provided in relation to the next steps given Highways England's withdrawal of the DCO application and officers ran through the Planning Inspectorate note of its 'minded to refuse' letter.
- 3.4 The emerging mitigation list from the Economic Impact Report Phase 2 work was discussed and commented upon.
- 3.5 A verbal update on the A303 scheme and the likely judicial review was provided and a review of the work programme undertaken.

January

- 3.6 Matt Palmer, the Executive Director for LTC at Highways England came to the meeting to introduce himself and answer questions.
- 3.7 The LTC team gave a presentation on design elements of the scheme to the members and answered questions.
- 3.8 An update on the mitigation list was provided and some questions clarified with members as to the next steps.

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:

Laura Last

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: **Tim Hallam**
Deputy Head of Legal & Deputy Monitoring Officer

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

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

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 Project Delivery
Place