

14 September 2022		ITEM: 10
		Decision: 110621
Cabinet		
Lower Thames Crossing Task Force Update Report		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Chair of the LTC Task Force		
Accountable Assistant Director: Colin Black, Interim Assistant Director – Regeneration and Place Delivery		
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Resources and Place Delivery		
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 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 in March 2022.

2.2 The Council remains opposed in principle to any new crossing in Thurrock and the Task Force has consistently sought to hold National Highways to account.

2.3 National Highways conducted a statutory consultation on the scheme which ended on 20 December 2018. Two subsequent consultations occurred (Supplementary and Design Refinements) in 2020 and then a Community Impacts Consultation in July-September 2021. Details of the Task Force's discussions following the consultations to date are detailed below. Between May and June 2022, National Highways also ran a Local Refinement Consultation.

2.4 National Highways submitted its Development Consent Order (DCO) application in October and the Council submitted an adequacy of consultation (AoC) response at the request of the Planning Inspectorate and submitted a joint AoC with Gravesham Borough Council and the

London Borough of Havering, which were instrumental in the subsequent actions of the Planning Inspectorate and in National Highways decision. As a consequence of these issues raised with the application and consultation, National Highways took the decision to withdraw its application in November 2020.

- 2.5 Since that time, National Highways has been amending its proposals, adding further mitigation, preparing new documentation, liaising with stakeholders (including Thurrock), involving many technical meetings.

3. Task Force meetings

- 3.1 All Task Force meetings are 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.

March 2022

- 3.3 There were three verbal updates relating to the Orsett Cock/A13 Junction, the forthcoming NH Local Refinement Consultation and the Health & Equalities Impact Assessment.

April – May 2022

- 3.4 No meetings were held due to the pre-election purdah period.

June 2022

- 3.5 The Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year were elected. The Assistant Director Regeneration & Place Delivery explained that the Council had written to the Treasury about the value for money of the LTC as currently proposed and this was discussed. Also, the Council's draft Local Refinement Consultation response was presented and discussed, and the broad approach was agreed.

July 2022

- 3.6 This meeting was postponed to ensure Member, officer and National Highways availability.

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: **Jonathan Wilson**
Assistant Director, Finance

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: **Mark Bowen**
Interim Head of Legal

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: **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

Dr. Colin Black

Interim Assistant Director – Regeneration and Place Delivery