

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.

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

Consultants on behalf of Highways England have been undertaking a series of meetings with Councillors. Highways England has been asked for details of the content of these meetings along with the outcomes and key points raised. Highways England are now providing advance notification of when such meetings take place and it has been requested that in future such meeting might be supported by Officers whenever possible. Highways England is now providing a simple summary note for each of those meetings which we have asked be validated by the respective Councillors.

1.3 Other contact with Highways England

Weekly 'Technical Meetings' are now being set up between Thurrock Officers and consultants working on behalf of Highways England.

The following have been considered to date:

- Visual Impacts
- Impact on local roads

The content of these meetings will include all the respective priorities of the Task Force as well as specific items as demanded within the Planning process.

The above excludes various emails and ad hoc phone calls.

For any questions regarding this briefing note, please contact:

Name: Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Place
John Lamb, Interim Assistant Director – Lower Thames Crossing