

Motions Submitted to Council

In accordance with Chapter 2, Part 2 (Rule 15) of the Council's Constitution

Motion 2

Submitted by Councillor Massey

Members may be aware that National Highways have recently submitted, and had approved, their Development Consent Order for the Lower Thames Crossing scheme, to move forward to the next stage in the Planning Inspectorate process. The LTC Task Force seeks assurances that the Council is committed to opposing the scheme as currently presented and promote this message through Council communications channels.

Monitoring Officer Comments:

The subject matter of the motion is the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) and is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). NSIPs were introduced by the Planning Act 2008 to streamline the decision-making process for major infrastructure projects. The Secretary of State is the decision maker. The DCO process will be managed by a panel known as 'the Examining Authority'. This will be the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

The motion relates to a matter affecting the authority and over which the Council has relevant functions. The DCO for Lower Thames Crossing if granted would have a significant impact on the Borough, and the Council will participate in the DCO process as a consultee. The DCO process is highly structured, with a strict timetable and the Council will submit its written representation to the Examining Authority at the appropriate time in the DCO process. The proposed written representation will first be presented to the Planning Committee. The Council will (in advance of the SoS decision) also negotiate protective provisions for affected functions such as in relation to the local road network as Highway Authority.

The subject matter within the remit of the Planning Committee Chapter 5, Part 3, paragraph 7 of the Terms of Reference.

Section 151 Officer Comments:

There are no specific financial implications arising from the motion. The Council position continues to inform actions taken and the associated budgets are subject to ongoing review.

Is the above motion within the remit of Council to approve?

Yes