



Meeting note

File reference

Status	Final
Author	Susannah Guest
Date	15 June 2016
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Teleconference
Attendees	On behalf of Highways England: Hugh Coakley Philip Paterson Martin Emery Nick Coombes Oleh Blyznyuk Susannah Guest – The Planning Inspectorate Richard Kent – The Planning Inspectorate
Meeting objectives	Project inception meeting
Circulation	All Attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was reminded of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy that any advice given will be recorded and published on the national infrastructure website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) (PA 2008) and that any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.

Introductions were made by everyone and individual roles were explained.

Highways England provided an overview of progress and activities since the last meeting with The Planning Inspectorate. Highways England indicated that they hoped to reach Options Identification stage by autumn 2016 and anticipated public consultation occurring before the close of the year. The current estimated submission date was suggested as spring/summer 2018.

Highways England explained the two elements of the proposals being improvements to Bean junction and Ebbsfleet junction. Highways England provided a brief overview of the current optioneering work, outlining the key benefits and impacts of the evolving options. The varying impacts of the options in respect of matters such as

land take, the nearby Darenth SSSI and air quality receptors was noted and discussed.

The Inspectorate enquired about the on-going dialogue with the Paramount Resort project team. Highways England noted the relationship between the Paramount proposals and their requirement, under the Road Investment Strategy, to deliver improvements to the Ebbsfleet junction. The likely timeframes of both projects were noted. The Inspectorate enquired about the sharing of information and communication strategies. Highways England noted that various groups have been established to share knowledge and discuss traffic modelling data as well as to seek to coordinate communication activities. The relationship with the Lower Thames Crossing was also noted and Highways England provided an up-date on how the two Highways England teams are seeking to coordinate.

The Inspectorate queried how Highways England have determined the relevant developments (under construction or proposed) to input into the traffic modelling. Highways England explained the traffic modelling undertaken so far and outlined the assumptions used to date and confirmed that the methodology was in accordance with the rules applied by the Department for Transport.

Highways England outlined the current engagement strategy with the relevant local authorities and provided an up-date on the status of the relevant local plans and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation's masterplan. Highways England outlined their current engagement strategy with statutory parties and local communities including Bean Residents Association and affected landowners.

Specific decisions / follow up required

- Suggestion for a future meeting in September/October and January/February.