



## Meeting note

### File reference

<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	Susannah Guest
<b>Date</b>	19 October 2016
<b>Meeting with</b>	Highways England
<b>Venue</b>	Teleconference
<b>Attendees</b>	Hugh Coakley – Highways England Philip Paterson – Halcrow Hyder Susannah Guest – The Planning Inspectorate Helen Lancaster – The Planning Inspectorate Mark Wilson – The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project Update Meeting
<b>Circulation</b>	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 developers (or others) can rely.

Highways England provided an overview of progress and activities since the last meeting with The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate). In terms of timetable, Highways England explained their continuing work on options identification and noted that public consultation was anticipated in early 2017; Highways England referred to a press release made on 14 October 2016 to this effect.

Highways England discussed the process in relation to any Scoping Request that they may wish to seek from the Secretary of State. The Inspectorate provided a brief overview of the scoping process noting in particular that the Inspectorate would be required to consult with certain statutory consultees and that certain documents would be hosted on our webpages. The Inspectorate explained the value in considering the timing of the submission of a Scoping Request noting that if a scoping request were too vague in respect of a project description it may be difficult to scope out topics. Furthermore, in response to a Scoping Request, statutory parties may suggest additional survey work to be completed during seasonal windows that may have an unexpected impact on a project's timescales.

Highways England provided an overview of engagement with certain parties since the last meeting including with the relevant local authorities, noting in particular some events such as a Value Management Workshop with local authorities and a Utilities Coordination Meeting chaired by Ebbsfleet Development Corporation.

The Inspectorate enquired about the on-going dialogue with the London Paramount Resort (Paramount) project team. Highways England noted the discussions with Paramount in terms of communication and co-ordination of activity. It was noted that Highways England had engagement with Paramount both as an applicant (both are proposing schemes under PA2008 in the same area) and as a statutory consultees. The current likely timeframes of both projects were noted.

Highways England discussed their methodological approach to determining which relevant developments (under construction or proposed) and planning documents (e.g. local plan allocations or Ebbsfleet Development Corporation Masterplan) had inputted to the traffic modelling.

There was a discussion about the London Paramount project in terms of whether it met Highways England's criteria for inclusion in their cumulative impact assessment. The Inspectorate explained the statutory nature of the pre-application stage of the Development Consent Order process and how the Paramount project had been directed into the PA2008 regime by the Secretary of State (s35 PA2008). The Inspectorate advised that careful consideration should be given to the schemes included in the cumulative impact assessment, to ensure that any application is supported by an adequate evidence base and does not omit any relevant development proposals. The Inspectorate noted that changes to the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations anticipated in 2017 could impact on what schemes should be taken into account in respect of assessing cumulative impacts.