



Meeting note

File reference

Status

Final

Author

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Date

25 February 2016

Meeting with**Venue**

Temple Quay House, Bristol

Attendees

Michael Brown – Highways England

The Planning Inspectorate
Susannah Guest - Infrastructure Planning Lead
David Price - EIA Manager
Callan Burchell - Assistant Case Officer

Meeting**objectives**

Project introduction to the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC)

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 present, and individual roles were explained.

Project Introduction

The developer provided an introduction to the proposed Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) scheme. The developer outlined the strategic context of the scheme noting that it was the only part of the M25 not to be motorway and it was one of the worst performing parts of the network. The developer made the Inspectorate aware of current issues at this location and constraints for potential solutions noting: congestion and high frequency of incidents in the existing Dartford Tunnel and QEII bridge, development opportunities and growth constraints.

The developer informed the Inspectorate of the objectives of the LTC scheme. In summary, the scheme aims to relieve congestion at the Dartford Crossing and

approach roads, improve resilience and safety, minimise adverse impacts on health and the environment and achieve value for money.

Project Update

The developer provided an overview of the options process to date and noted that a wide variety of route options had been under consideration.

Consultation

The developer highlighted that in 2013, a public consultation event took place that provided confirmation that there was high demand for a new river crossing over the Thames.

The developer provided an overview of engagement to date with statutory undertakers and relevant local authorities.

The developer informed the Inspectorate that non-statutory consultation was taking place during January - March 2016. The developer made the Inspectorate aware that the response rate to the consultation was currently around 14, 000 responses and it was anticipated that this would increase. The developer explained that it was hoped a Preferred Route Announcement would be made by summer 2016 and that any formal submission would not be until mid-2019.