

Meeting note

Project name	M25 J28 Improvements
File reference	TR010029
Status	Final
Author	Manveer Phull
Date	17 August 2018
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Highways England
Meeting objectives	Inception Meeting: Reintroduction to M25 J28 Improvements
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

The Applicant (Highways England) explained that the purpose of the meeting was to reintroduce the proposals to improve the M25 Junction 28 and to discuss the next steps for the project. A meeting with the Inspectorate had been held in September 2017 and a Scoping Opinion was published in December 2017.

The Applicant explained that the principle of improvements to this junction had been identified in the Road Investment Strategy 2014. Junction 28 of the M25 serves to connect the M25 with the A12 and A1023. The junction and surrounding land is located within the boundary of Brentwood Borough Council and the London Borough of Havering.

The proposed scheme would include the construction of a two lane loop road for traffic from the M25 to the A12. An over bridge would be constructed at the A12 eastbound exit road to proposed loop road. The A12 would be reconfigured to accommodate the two lanes joining the A12 eastbound from the proposed loop road. A short section of the M25 will be widened to provide a proposed exit road and a bridge would be constructed over the M25 anti-clockwise entry road.

The Applicant provided a high level overview of the surrounding land uses and environmental designations in and around the project location. A brief explanation of the optioneering process identified some of the engineering challenges experienced in the design of the project.

The Applicant provided an overview of on-going discussions to date, including with the relevant local authorities, organisations such as the Environment Agency and statutory undertakers and asset owners. The Applicant explained that they had held an event

inviting representatives from the relevant local authorities to provide an overview of the PA08 process and roles of requirements of the organisations.

The Applicant noted that they are in discussions with potentially directly affected land owners.

The Applicant noted that whilst there may have been a pause in progressing the scheme, the project had not significantly changed in nature and therefore at this stage they did not consider that updating the Scoping Report was necessary.

The Applicant outlined an indicative timeline, suggesting that a Statement of Community Consultation was expected to be published in winter 2018 and work was currently underway on the drafting of the Preliminary Environmental Information report. The Applicant indicated that a response to the Scoping Opinion could be included in the PEIR/Environmental Statement.

The Applicant intended to submit an application in autumn 2019 with a start of works date in March/April 2021. The Inspectorate noted that it could be a tight timeframe.