

Lower Thames Crossing

5.1 Consultation Report Appendix F Responses from local authorities on the draft Statement of Community Consultation and an explanation of how National Highways had regard to those responses

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009

Volume 5

DATE: October 2022

Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: TR010032
Application Document Ref: TR010032/APP/5.1

VERSION: 1.0

Lower Thames Crossing

5.1 Consultation Report

Appendix F Responses from local authorities on the draft Statement of Community Consultation and an explanation of how National Highways had regard to those responses

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Appendix F Responses from local authorities on the draft Statement of Community Consultation and an explanation of how the Applicant had regard to those responses

F.1 Local authorities that responded to the consultation on the draft SoCC

- F.1.1 The consultation on the Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) lasted from 1 August to 2 September 2018, with copies of the draft SoCC posted and emailed to the appropriate local authorities for comment on 1 August 2018. For more information about the draft SoCC consultation process, see Section 4.1 of the Consultation Report.
- F.1.2 The draft SoCC that was consulted on is shown in Appendix D of the Consultation Report, while the letter sent to local authorities to start the draft SoCC consultation is in Appendix E. Table F.1 shows the local authorities included in the draft SoCC consultation and which ones responded.
- F.1.3 Section F.2 provides copies of the responses from the 16 local authorities that submitted a response. Table F.2 shows a summary of the comments from each local authority, along with a copy of the Applicant's response to their comments, and whether the SoCC was changed as a result of their comments.
- F.1.4 See Table G.1 in Appendix G of the Consultation Report for more information as to how the Project complied with the commitments in the SoCC published as part of the Statutory Consultation.

Table F.1 Local authorities consulted on the draft SoCC and respondents

Local authority	Category for s.43(2)	Responded (Y/N)
Ashford Borough Council	-	Y
Basildon Borough Council	A	N
Braintree District Council	-	N
Brentwood Borough Council	B	N
Cambridgeshire County Council	D	Y
Canterbury City Council	-	N
Castle Point Borough Council	A	Y
Chelmsford City Council	A	Y
Colchester Borough Council	-	N
Dartford Borough Council	B	Y
Dover District Council	-	Y
East Sussex County Council	D	N

Local authority	Category for s.43(2)	Responded (Y/N)
Epping Forest District Council	A	N
Essex County Council	C	Y
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	-	N
Gravesham Borough Council	B	Y
Greater London Authority	S.42(C)	Y
Harlow Council	-	N
Hertfordshire County Council	D	N
Kent County Council	C	Y
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	A	N
London Borough of Bexley	A	Y
London Borough of Bromley	A	N
London Borough of Enfield	A	N
London Borough of Havering	B	Y
London Borough of Redbridge	A	N
London Borough of Waltham Forest	A	N
Maidstone Borough Council	A	Y
Maldon District Council	-	Y
Medway Council	B	Y
Rochford District Council	-	N
Sevenoaks District Council	A	N
Southend-on-Sea City Council	A	N
Suffolk County Council	D	N
Surrey County Council	D	N
Swale Borough Council	A	N
Tendring District Council	-	N
Thanet District Council	-	N
Thurrock Council	B	Y
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	A	N
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	-	N
Uttlesford District Council	-	N

F.2 Responses from local authorities to the consultation on the draft SoCC

Plate F.1 Ashford District Council

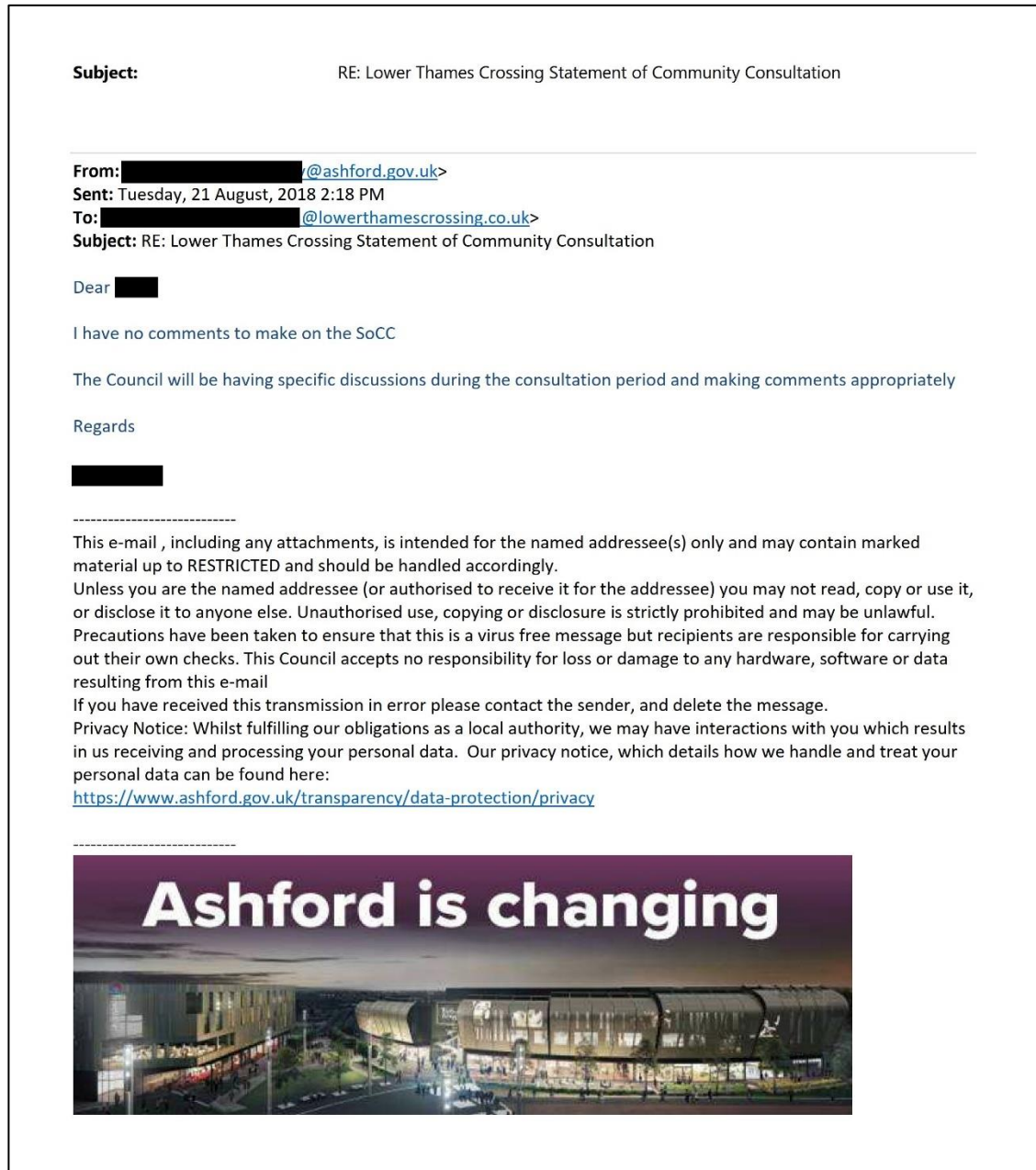


Plate F.2 Plate Cambridgeshire County Council

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Formal consultation of the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of
Community Consultation

From: [REDACTED]@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 August, 2018 2:08 PM
To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@cambridgeshire.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@cambridgeshirepeterborough-
ca.gov.uk) [REDACTED]@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Formal consultation of the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of Community Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] has passed your email regarding the above to me. Please treat this email as the confirmation requested that Cambridgeshire County Council has received the attached letter and draft SoCC.

Noting that they do not appear on your list of Local Authorities that you are consulting, could you please confirm that you have also consulted the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, who are now the Transport Authority covering Cambridgeshire.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Group Manager: Transport Strategy and Funding
Cambridgeshire County Council
Direct dial: [REDACTED]
Team admin, [REDACTED]

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Plate F.3 Plate Castle Point Borough Council



Castle Point Borough Council
Council Offices, Kiln Road,
Thundersley, Benfleet,
Essex SS7 1TF
Tel: 01268 882200
Fax: 01268 882382

██████████
Stakeholder Engagement Lead
LTC CASCADE

Date: 22nd August 2018
Our Reference: SAR/PP/CCCSPD
Your Reference:

By e-mail to: ██████████@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk

Dear ██████████

**LOWER THAMES CROSSING
DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Thank you for providing the Council with the opportunity to comment on the Lower Thames Crossing Draft Statement of Community Consultation.

I should be grateful if you could take into account the comments set out below as representing the response of Castle Point Borough Council to this consultation; these comments have been considered in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

The Council has no objections to the approach to consultation as set out in the Statement of Community Consultation.

I hope that you will be able to take these comments into account and thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

Yours sincerely

██████████

██████████
Local Plan & Regeneration Adviser

██████████ (Direct line)
██████████@castlepoint.gov.uk

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www.castlepoint.gov.uk
Twitter: @CastlePointBC

Plate F.4 Chelmsford City Council

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Draft Statement of Community Consultation

From: [REDACTED]@chelmsford.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 August, 2018 10:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>
Subject: Draft Statement of Community Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for consulting Chelmsford City Council on the draft Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation. The City Council has no comments or suggested changes to make to the document. The City Council looks forward to continuing to engage with Highways England as they advance to the next stage in the consultation process.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Senior Planning Officer
Chelmsford City Council

Working days: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays

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Plate F.5 Dartford Borough Council

Regeneration Services

██████████
Lower Thames Crossing
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

Please ask for: ██████████
Direct Line: ██████████
Direct Fax: ██████████
E-mail: ██████████
DX: ██████████

Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Date: 29 August 2018

Dear ██████████

Re: Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC): formal issue for review in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

Many thanks for giving Dartford Council the opportunity to comment on the Statement of Community Consultation and for taking into account some of our earlier informal comments.

As you know, the eventual Lower Thames Crossing, whilst it is to be constructed to the east of Gravesend, is of critical importance to the residents and businesses in Dartford given the stated aim of the proposal to relieve the congested Dartford Crossing and approach roads and to improve the resilience of the Thames Crossings. It is, therefore, of paramount importance that residents and businesses in Dartford are given ample opportunity to comment on the proposals. The Council's comments on the Draft Statement of Community Consultation are provided below.

We are pleased to see that you have expanded the leaflet distribution area, as shown in Appendix 1, to include part of Dartford Borough. We assume this will include business premises as well as residents.

With regard to public information events, I note that you are yet to confirm details of the Dartford venue. I am happy to continue advising and assisting you to find a suitable location. However, your requirements seem to be quite onerous, in particular, a staff room to accommodate 20-25 people. It may be that these will need to be reviewed in order to secure a location which attracts a good footfall. The location of the venue is likely to be more critical in achieving a good turn-out, than the size of the premises. I have previously commented that one of your suggested venues, the Mick Jagger Centre, is not very central and may not draw in many people. I remain of that view. Based on the Council's extensive experience of public consultation locally, venues in the heart of Dartford town centre achieve the best turn out. A town centre venue is also more likely to attract 'hard to reach' groups who are more likely to visit an event during a shopping trip to the town centre, rather than making a special trip to a venue elsewhere.

I would suggest that you include Dartford's Civic Centre as one of your information points, as the building is well used by visiting members of the public and would provide an additional opportunity to make information available.

The SoCC does not identify organisations in our area that will be consulted so it is not possible to comment on whether all appropriate ones have been identified. We would be grateful if these could be shared and discussed with us to ensure all appropriate organisations are contacted.

No details have been provided on the nature of the social media campaign, so it is not possible to comment on this. Given the importance of social media in raising awareness in current times, it is important for us to understand what forms of social media you intend to use and whether these will be the most effective.

It is noted that you are to publish Section 47 statutory notices in the Essex Chronicle, Kent Messenger and the Thurrock Gazette. In addition, you propose to place paid advertising in some local newspapers. It is recommended that this include the more local newspapers, such as the Dartford Messenger, since these are likely to achieve a greater readership in the core affected area.

I trust these comments are helpful. Please contact me if you have any queries on these comments or if you require further advice and/or assistance with consultation arrangements for Dartford.

Yours sincerely



Head of Regeneration

Plate F.6 Dover District Council



██████████
Lower Thames Crossing
Development Director
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

Regeneration
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ

Telephone: (01304) 821199
Fax: (01304) 872445
DX: 6312
Minicom: (01304) 820115
Website: www.dover.gov.uk

Contact: ██████████
Direct line: ██████████
E-mail: ██████████@dover.gov.uk
Our ref: TJI/AFW
Your ref:
Date: 14 August 2018

Dear ██████████

Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC): formal issue for review in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008

Thank you for your letter of 1 August enclosing the draft SoCC setting out the proposed approach for consulting the local community.

Given that the creation of the Lower Thames Crossing (which Dover District Council supports) will have significant consequential impacts in traffic flows across the county, it is considered that a public information event should be held in East Kent. It would be preferable for this to be held at Dover Town Hall.

I hope that you can agree to this additional event.

You will also be aware that your colleagues previously briefed my Leader and the team at Dover on the project. It would, therefore, be appreciated, as ██████████ has recently suggested to me, if a subsequent update could be given as the process matures. Perhaps the morning of an additional event in Dover could work best?

I thank you, in anticipation, for your assistance in this matter.

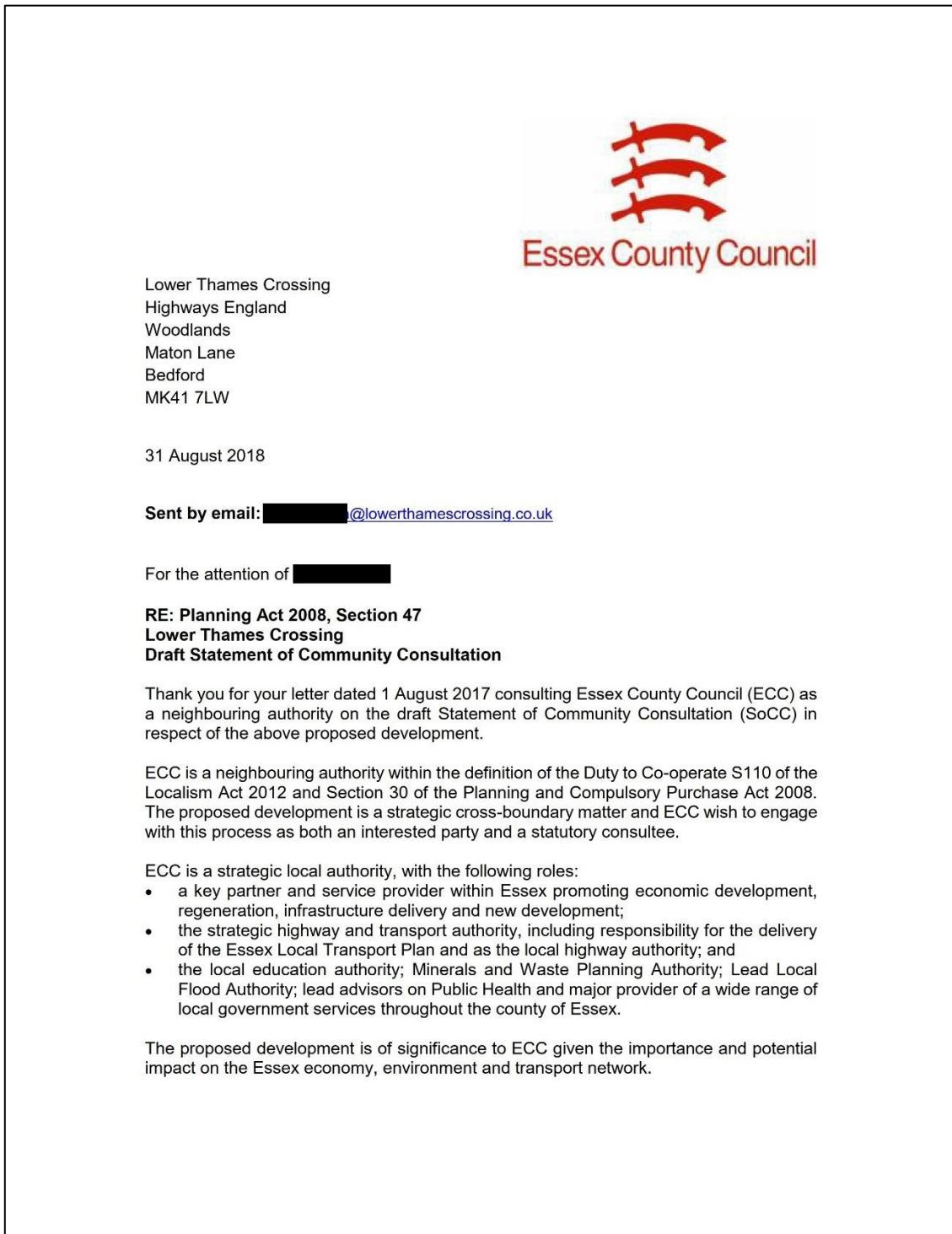
Yours sincerely

████████████████████

██████████
Head of Inward Investment

c.c. Councillor ██████████ – Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing

Plate F.7 Essex County Council



Comments related specifically to the content of the SoCC that that the Lower Thames Crossing team will need to address as it prepares the application for the project:

Generally there is a need to expand out the Statement of Consultation to ensure that it reaches areas within Essex, certainly south Essex where there will be an undoubted impact on the highway network as a result of the LTC proposal. More specifically:

- The document states that emails will be sent out at the start of the consultation to relevant individuals, businesses and organisations notifying them of the consultation and encouraging them to respond but it does not state what constitutes 'relevant' within this context. We would like to ensure that this is not restricted to those that have previously responded to the consultation or within a prescribed proximity to the new proposal, and includes the wider area affected by the proposal;
- Leaflets will be distributed to all properties within a 2km vicinity of the proposed route. This means that properties outside of this buffer, such as in south Essex will not be targeted for the leaflet drop. Whilst it may be excessive to ask for all south Essex or Essex residents to be sent a leaflet each, it might be worth adding that leaflets will be sent to authorities in the wider area to store in the Council offices, libraries, parish Councils etc. so that they can be provided upon request;
- Our position would be that the leaflet drop should extend up the A12 corridor to Brentwood and Chelmsford.
- Media advertisements, including statutory notices within local newspapers would appear to be aimed at the Essex Chronicle, Kent Messenger, Thurrock Gazette, London Gazette and at least one national newspaper. In addition, HE will place paid advertising in some local newspapers but it is not clear which ones these may be, therefore this part could be expanded to include affected Boroughs and Districts in the wider area;
- Additional promotional activity to be placed in shopping centres and transport hubs. Again does not state how far reaching these would be, so could be expanded to ensure that any transport hubs or shopping centres in south Essex or Essex is included.
- In terms of business engagement we would encourage engagement with Opportunity South Essex to allow connections to be made with the South Essex business community. Beyond this there are other groups that the project would benefit from connecting with. We would be happy to supply a listing of contacts to relevant groups and chambers of commerce.

Other matters relevant to the Lower Thames Crossing

Other factors to be presented to enable effective engagement with this proposal include the following:

Transport

It is recommended that further consideration should be given to the timescales for project delivery and the cumulative impacts and timing with other major transport infrastructure

projects in the vicinity, be it the Lower Thames Crossing, A13 road widening, A127/A130
Fairglen Interchange improvements, and the A127 route management strategy.

If you require further information or clarification on any points raised in this response
please contact [REDACTED] below.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Director Highways and Transportation
Essex County Council

Enquiries: [REDACTED]
Telephone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@[essex.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@essex.gov.uk)

Plate F.8 Gravesham Borough Council



██████████
Development Director
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW

Via email to
██████████@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk

Dear ██████████

Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation

Thank you for the consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on the Lower Thames Crossing. The Borough Council has previously responded on an earlier draft and has to record its disappointment that the current document fails to get to grips with the need for as wide a consultation as possible. In making its comments the Council is mindful of the fact that many people will not be familiar with the process and therefore need guidance on how the stage covered by the SoCC fits within the wider process.

The application

At paragraph 6, the SoCC talks about how the applicant intends to consult with people 'living in' the vicinity of the land to which the proposed DCO relates. Whilst this wording reflects s.47 of the Planning Act 2008, this is a major project and the wider community also needs to be consulted including businesses; people working in and visiting the area - see paragraph 14, as this is actually what is intended. There are different audiences depending on whether an individual thinks the scheme directly affects them (actual or perceived) and whether an individual / company / organisation has a wider interest in the matter.

The SoCC needs to reflect this and be amended accordingly, setting out the steps by which this will be achieved.

After paragraph 8, it would be helpful if another paragraph could be added on process. The section is about 'the application' when in actual fact it relates only to the s.47 Duty to Consult pre-application stage.

Whilst the SoCC prepared pursuant to s.47 only actually relates to the pre-application stage under Chapter 2 of the 2008 Act, there also needs to be something here to inform the local community of the publicity requirements at the actual application stage under s.56 and their rights to register an interest / make an objection on the detailed scheme.

The minimum publicity requirements at s.56 are set out in Regulation 9 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. In terms of the public, and aside from the statutory s.57 notifications, these requirements appear to be very basic – press notices and site notices at 5km intervals on a linear scheme.

Whilst there would not appear to be a statutory requirement to do so, Gravesham Borough Council (GBC) would expect these minimum requirements to be exceeded and to better reflect the level of publicity at the pre-application stage.

Switchboard! 01474 56 44 22
Minicom 01474 33 76 17
Website www.gravesham.gov.uk

Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU

Housing and Regeneration
Ask for: ██████████
Telephone: ██████████
Email: ██████████@gravesham.gov.uk
My ref: LTC/KDB
Your ref:
Date: 30 August 2018



A diagram on process at this point and a link to the relevant PINS guidance would be helpful to make the overall context clear.

The project

At paragraph 11, it would be useful to set out how the project objectives were consulted on and agreed given these will have formed the basis for choice of preferred option – the statutory consultation should also set out the criteria used to assess scheme performance against those objectives relative to reasonable alternatives.

The SoCC also needs to include the red line plan for the DCO, so the reader knows what area it refers to. The road and junctions can be shown indicatively. The plan at Appendix 1 is not sufficient for this purpose, as it only refers to the leaflet distribution areas.

Consulting the Community

At Paragraph 12, the same comments apply as at paragraph 6.

At paragraph 15, because of proximity or potential impact on SPA / Ramsar sites, the project may also require a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in addition to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Regulation 5 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 requires that the actual application contain sufficient information to make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the project. This also needs to be reflected in the text.

Paragraph 15 also needs to make it clear that the EIA will include an assessment of significant impacts during both the construction and operational phases.

Because there have been changes to the project and the red line boundary has altered, there is potential for the scoping exercise to have become out-of-date. It is assumed that the pre-application consultation will address this issue and set out the changes and potential implications for any EIA / HRA and that this scoping addendum will also be consulted upon. For the sake of completeness, this also needs to be reflected in the SoCC because the public need to have confidence in the process.

Similarly, the EIA has been subject to scrutiny by relevant parties and a Scoping Opinion has been issued by PINS. Whilst this was not part of a public consultation exercise, it has informed part of the framework against which the application will be evaluated at examination. The Scoping Opinion issued by PINS stated:

- 1.2.2 The list of respondents who replied within the statutory timeframe and whose comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion is provided, along with copies of their comments, at Appendix 2, to which the Applicant should refer in undertaking the EIA.
- 1.2.3 The ES submitted by the Applicant should demonstrate consideration of the points raised by the consultation bodies. It is recommended that a table is provided in the ES summarising the scoping responses from the consultation bodies and how they are, or are not, addressed in the ES.

(see <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-000033-LTC%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>)

GBC is of the view that the PEIR should contain a preliminary version of such a table as an appendix so that both the consultation bodies and the public can identify the issues raised and how

the applicant is seeking to address them. Once again, this would help to provide confidence in the process and avoid issues remaining unresolved until the application stage. In any event, this should provide part of the public evidence at the pre-application stage necessary to demonstrate the reliability or otherwise of the PEIR.

Without this, it is arguable that the PEIR and the consultation could be flawed so a statement within the SOCC that the scoping review and the above table will be included within the PEIR is requested.

On the consultation documents listed at Paragraph 17, is it worth saying that this is a 'work in progress' and that elements may be subject to change as detailed design develops, and studies are progressed? This would reflect what is said at paragraph 24 on the need for potential further consultation – although it isn't clear whether this would be done at the pre-application (s.47) or application (s.56) stage.

There is no information anyway within the SoCC on the level of detail that will be provided at the s.47 pre-application consultation stage. Whilst GBC accepts that full details are only likely to become available at the application stage, the consultation can only be meaningful if people have something substantive to respond to and they are told what is 'fixed' and what may be subject to change. GBC therefore considers the SoCC to be deficient in that it is not clear as to what level of detail people can expect to see. This needs to be agreed in advance of the consultation and included in the final version of the document.

At paragraph 18, on consultation channels, media should include information made available to local radio stations to publicise both the project and events.

Also, it is noted that there is no discussion within the document about whether the applicant has sought to identify hard to reach groups and possible methods of engagement. The SoCC should include a section on this and how the applicant has dealt with the issue. GBC cannot comment on the adequacy of the SoCC in this respect in its absence.

Public information event locations, dates and times

On Bluewater, Sunday 21 October, the event is timed to take place midday to 6pm – for information, shop opening times are 11 am – 5pm.

Whilst there are events at Chalk Parish Hall, Gravesend Civic Centre and Shorne Village Hall, there is no event shown for the Riverview Park area in Gravesend. Given that this (along with the adjoining hamlet of Thong) is probably the area most affected by the project, this is not acceptable and GBC suggests that a venue in this area must be found. Without this, GBC would consider the pre-application consultation to be deficient.

Deposit locations

GBC would expect Gravesend Civic Centre, Windmill Street also to be a deposit location.

Information points

GBC would expect Riverview Park Library, The Alma, Gravesend to be included in the list of information points given it is the closest to the route in Gravesend – see <http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/KCC.Libraries.Web.Sites.Public/LibraryDetails.aspx?aid=0&lid=49&urn=100062668779>

We are happy to discuss any matters further to ensure clarity and inclusion.

Yours sincerely





Director (Housing and Regeneration)

Plate F.9 Greater London Authority

Subject: RE: Lower Thames Crossing s47 Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation

From: [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, 31 August, 2018 4:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@london.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@tfl.gov.uk>
Subject: Lower Thames Crossing s47 Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Mayor of London, officers at the Greater London Authority (GLA) thank you for consulting them on the Statement of Community Consultation for the Lower Thames Crossing in accordance with s47 of the Planning Act 2008. Both the GLA and Transport for London would like to be consulted on the Lower Thames Crossing proposals. The Mayor also welcomes your continued engagement with TfL on other technical topics related to the project.

Thank you

[REDACTED]
Principal Strategic Planner
London Plan and Growth Strategies Team
Development, Enterprise and Environment
Greater London Authority


[REDACTED]

#LondonIsOpen

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Plate F.10 Kent County Council

██████████
Lower Thames Crossing
Highways England
Woodlands
Manton Lane
Bedford
MK41 7LW



**Environment, Planning and
Enforcement**

Invicta House
County Hall
MAIDSTONE
Kent ME14 1XX

Phone: ██████████
Ask for: ██████████
Email: ██████████@kent.gov.uk
31st August 2018

Dear ██████████

**Re: Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC):
formal issue for review in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008**

Thank you for consulting Kent County Council (KCC) on the draft Statement of
Community Consultation (SoCC) relating to the application for an Order granting
Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing.

The County Council has reviewed the draft SoCC and sets out its comments below.
With the exception of the general comments provided at the start of this letter, the
letter is structured to reflect the headings set out within the consultation document.

Equality Impact Assessment


The County Council would expect to see reference given to the Equality Impact
Assessment (EqIA) that Highways England has carried out. KCC would recommend
that a section is included within the report that summarises the measures undertaken
to ensure that the consultation is accessible to all.

The website and documents should be made accessible to people using audio
transcription software, and Easy Read versions of the summary document should be
made available upon request. Venues for the exhibition events should also be
accessible to the mobility impaired and those with prams.

Reference should be made to make clear how the EqIA has been used to inform the
format of the consultation process. Furthermore, copies of the document should be
made available at deposit locations throughout the consultation period.

Consultation documents

It is advised that user testing of the consultation documents (particularly for the
consultation booklet) is undertaken before finalisation and publication.



Consulting the community

Para. 18

The County Council has previously suggested that the use of an online tool would complement the proposed face to face engagement (in an email dated 9th March 2018). KCC uses the ICT application Stickyworld to create online exhibitions, opening them up to a wider audience and providing another route for people to engage with the project. This could potentially be worth exploring in order to reach a wider audience.

Consultation period

Para. 18

It is suggested that a full twelve week consultation period is undertaken, given the scope and scale of the proposal.

Information Points

KCC is pleased to see that Shorne Woods Country Park is included as an information point. The consultation document currently states that the information point will be available during general park opening times. This will need to be updated to reflect the visitor centre opening times, which are 10am to 4pm every day.

Public Information Events

It is suggested that Ebbsfleet International Station could also be used as a venue for public information events.

The County Council welcomes the range of venues for public information events but would suggest that some morning times are included for those unable to attend on afternoons and weekends.

Next Steps

Para. 25

It would be helpful for the SoCC to provide an estimated date of publication for the consultation report. Should the timetable for the submission of the DCO application alter, it would be useful for the consultation report to be published separately and within 12 weeks, to ensure that the public can read the outcomes of the consultation and feedback as appropriate.

Appendix 1: Leaflet Distribution Areas

The catchment of leaflet drop is very much focused in the area to the west of the proposed scheme. KCC would suggest that the catchment is extended further east, to include communities in Cliffe Woods and Medway.

Appendix 2: Statutory notices and paid advertising

It would be helpful to set out which local newspapers Highways England plans to use to place paid advertisements.

As a statutory consultation body, the County Council looks forward to working with Highways England as the Development Consent Order application progresses and will continue to review further documentation submitted as part of the process.

If you require further information or clarification on any matter in this letter, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Director – Environment, Planning and Enforcement

Plate F.11 London Borough of Bexley

From: [REDACTED]@bexley.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, 24 August, 2018 3:02 PM
To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]@bexley.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@bexley.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@bexley.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email asking for our comments on the Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation.

The only comment I wish to make is to ask that you circulate a draft of your Consultation Report to stakeholders for comments, before it is sent off as part of the DCO application. I note that you 'may choose to consult further on certain changes to the project made in response to consultation feedback' but I would wish to see an explanation of how comments have influenced your proposals before the DCO submission.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Infrastructure Strategy Manager
London Borough of Bexley

Strategic Planning & Growth, 2nd Floor East, Civic Offices, Watling Street, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7AT

[REDACTED]@bexley.gov.uk

Plate F.12 London Borough of Havering

Subject: RE: Lower Thames Crossing Draft Statement of Community Consultation - London Borough of Havering Officer Comments

From: [REDACTED]@havering.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, 31 August, 2018 3:28 PM

To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@havering.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@havering.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@havering.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@havering.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]@havering.gov.uk>

Subject: Lower Thames Crossing Draft Statement of Community Consultation - London Borough of Havering Officer Comments

Dear Highways England,

Thank you for consulting London Borough of Havering on the Lower Thames Crossing Draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC). Officers have reviewed the SoCC and would like to offer the following comments:

Paragraph 17

- Whilst it is welcome that a broad range of documents will be made available to members of the public during the consultation period, there is a risk that due to the technical nature of some of the information contained within them (such as the traffic reports for example) that members of the public will not be able to fully understand the information that is being provided and that this will therefore impact on their ability to properly respond to the consultation. Highways England should ensure that in instances where technical information is being provided as part of the consultation, that it is available in a format that members of the public will be able to interpret and fully understand.

Table under Paragraph 18

- Public Information Event – Holding a series of public information events is welcome, however the exact dates, location and times of these events needs to be published a significant time in advance of the launch for the consultation to ensure that residents and other stakeholders have the best opportunity to be able to attend one of these. Whilst it is welcome that this information will be published in the local press and on the consultation leaflet, it should also be published on the Highways England website.
- Public Information Event – The Consultation will also be promoted by Havering on social media [a schedule pre and during the events taking place] – this includes Twitter, Facebook etc and Council newsletters that are sent out to residents/subscribers.
- Officers note the comments with regards to having to cancel or change public information events due to unforeseen circumstances. If such instances do occur, particularly if at short notice, every effort must be made to publicise these changes (particularly on social media) so that local residents and other stakeholders are aware.
- It is welcome that Highways England will offer to meet community representatives and stakeholder groups such as business and interest groups to discuss the project. LBH officers will be happy to provide relevant contact details for such groups so that these meetings can be arranged.

- Social Media Campaign – It will be important to liaise with Havering’s own Communications team ahead of the launch of the statutory consultation. The Councils communications team can support publicising the consultation through its own website and media formats such as its own Twitter feed.
- Media – As well as placing advertisements in local newspapers, information should also be put out through Time FM and also the Councils local Magazine “Living” which is distributed to all Havering residents. LBH Officers can support Highways England in getting an article published in Living. The Council will also be able to put out its own press releases on the consultation.

Paragraphs 19/20

- Its needs to be made clear that stakeholders can respond in written form if they wish to rather than being restricted to completing a response form. Many stakeholders such as Local Authorities are likely you provide comments through a formal response letter rather than ticking boxes on a form.

Public information event locations, dates and times

- The proposed locations in the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme are welcome. Officers consider it essential that Romford Town Hall is used as an event location. Whilst it is not in the immediate vicinity of the proposed scheme, Romford is the most accessible part of the borough and is therefore an ideal location for stakeholders who perhaps do not live close to the proposed scheme but wish to learn more about it. Romford Town Hall can also be used both during the working day and in the evening.
- It is suggested that the Centre of Engineering and Manufacturing Excellent (CEME) in Rainham should also be considered as a location for a public information event. This would be an ideal location for residents from the south of the borough to access and is also next to the London Riverside Business Improvement District (BID) which is a collection of over 300 businesses, many of whom make logistical journeys each day and are likely to be impacted, or at least have an interest in the proposals.

Deposit Locations

- Rainham Library could be considered as a deposit location for the consultation materials.

Appendix 1

- Please could Highways England confirm whether the whole of Upminster and Cranham Wards have been included within the leaflet distribution area?
- It is welcome that Harold Wood residential area has been included within the leaflet distribution area and consideration should also be given to extending the distribution area westwards to Gallows Corner Junction given its strategic nature (which would essentially result in all of Harold Wood ward being within the leaflet drop area). Similarly, consideration should also be given to including South Hornchurch Ward in the leaflet distribution area given its proximity to the A13 and M25.
- It is difficult for Officers to provide further guidance on whether the extent of the consultation area is adequate because the traffic modelling data (showing potential impact areas) has only recently been published and is yet to be properly reviewed. This is will reviewed in greater detail in the next few weeks and further comments may be made once this has taken place, on the adequacy of the leaflet distribution area and whether or not it needs to be extended.

Appendix 2

- In Havering the most read publications are the Romford Recorder and the Yellow Advertiser so Highways England should publish Section 47 statutory consultation notices in these two publications in addition to the publications listed in Appendix 2.

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

regards,

██████████

██████████ **Transport Planning Team Leader**

London Borough of Havering | Planning
Town Hall, Main Road, Romford, RM1 3BD

f ██████████
e ██████████ [@havering.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@havering.gov.uk)
w www.havering.gov.uk
text relay ██████████

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Plate F.13 Maidstone Borough Council

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Maidstone.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, 21 August, 2018 8:45 AM

To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Maidstone.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Maidstone.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@Maidstone.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Lower Thames Crossing Statement of Community Consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) document. As a local authority who may be indirectly impacted by the proposed project, it is important to remain informed of the project as it progresses and be able to provide input where appropriate.

The draft SoCC appears to be a generally thorough and comprehensive document. Whilst it is acknowledged that it is currently in a draft format, we would seek clarification on the following points:

Social media and website

- The draft SoCC does not identify specific social media channels, however it is presumed that the main channels would be Facebook and Twitter. Is there an expectation for us, as a local authority, to repost and retweet as necessary? Who are the target audience of the social media campaign and for how long would the campaign run?
- Will Highways England have downloadable social media assets that we, as a local authority, can access during the public consultation?
- Is there an obligation or expectation for us, as a local authority, to signpost the public consultation on our own website?

Public information events

- Are there a minimum number of face-to-face events that will be held?

Additional promotional activity

- When will this promotional activity be confirmed and how will people be made aware of it?

Local authority briefings

- What is the process through which to secure a face-to-face briefing and will this be made clear in the final SoCC?

Ad hoc meetings

- It may be of use to provide your email, post and telephone details in this section for people to arrange ad-hoc meetings.

Alternative formats

- Will there be a charge for the provision of alternative document formats? It is our understanding that this would fall under equal opportunity and is therefore mandatory. Perhaps it should be made explicitly clear whether charges are/are not applicable in this case?

Customer contact centre

- Could you provide detail on how and when you intend to brief the local authority customer contact centre staff about the public consultation? This does not necessarily need to be made explicit in the SoCC, but would be useful to know as far in advance as practicable.

I trust this general feedback will be of use during the preparation of the final SoCC document. If you require any clarification on matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I would be grateful if you could add my details to your contacts list to receive any future correspondence regarding the Lower Thames Crossing.

Many thanks,

██████

██████████

Principal Planning Officer (Strategic Planning)

Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

██████████ www.maidstone.gov.uk

Plate F.14 Maldon District Council

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Formal consultation of the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of
Community Consultation

From: [REDACTED]@maldon.gov.uk>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 August, 2018 3:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Formal consultation of the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of Community Consultation

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

This consultation will be reported to our Planning & Licensing Committee on 7 September.

Officers have reviewed the draft SoCC. The SoCC is written in Plain English and appears to be thorough in its approach to consulting local communities. Officers therefore, have no comments to make on the SoCC.

If the Committee has any comments it wishes to make, I will let you know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Planning Policy Officer | Planning and Regulatory Services Directorate**
Maldon District Council, Princes Road, Maldon, Essex, CM9 5DL
Normal working hours, Monday – Friday
[REDACTED]@maldon.gov.uk [REDACTED] | www.maldon.gov.uk | @maldondc

'Working in partnership to make the Maldon District a better place to live, work and enjoy'



Plate F.15 Medway Council

To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Formal consultation of the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of Community Consultation

From: [REDACTED]@medway.gov.uk
Sent: Monday, 3 September, 2018 4:24 PM
To: [REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@medway.gov.uk; [REDACTED]@medway.gov.uk
Subject: RE: Formal consultation of the Lower Thames Crossing draft Statement of Community Consultation

Hi [REDACTED]

Having reviewed the document, we consider the methodology for community consultation to be sound, and have no comments to make. Please accept our apologies for the delayed response.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Head of Integrated Transport
Medway Council
[REDACTED]






Plate F.16 Thurrock Council


Civic Offices, New Road, Grays
Essex RM17 6SL
4 September 2018

[REDACTED]@thurrock.gov.uk

BY EMAIL:
[REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk
[REDACTED]@lowerthamescrossing.co.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: S47 Consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation – LTC Scheme

I write with regard to the above matter and further to your formal letter dated 1 August 2018.

As you know, Thurrock provided a draft response to the SoCC by email on 17 August 2018 which was early on in your consultation, with a commitment to provide a final formal response by close of business today. This was agreed between the parties in an exchange of emails.

For ease of reference, I enclose a copy of the table, which has not been changed or modified since the version provided to you, along with an addendum table which provides the additional more detailed information referred to in the initial draft response.


The forthcoming consultation should comply with the DCLG Guidance on the pre-application process, and the Council ought to be satisfied that the consultation has met the threshold in terms of adequacy of consultation. It is Thurrock Council's position that all comments made in its response should be fully considered and actioned, with any failure to do being recorded in the Council's adequacy of consultation response which will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in due course.

It would be helpful for the Council to have a written response to our comments at your earliest opportunity.

Should you require any further clarification on the points raised, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | Assistant Director Lower Thames Crossing | Place



Paragraph in the SoCC	Thurrock Comments
14 & 18	<p>Consultation period - A 10 week consultation period for a project of this magnitude and with significant impacts does not reflect best practice normally associated with this type of consultation. The Council would wish to see 12 weeks as a minimum standard particularly given you are holding events over the duration of the October half term break when some local people may be on holiday or away from the area. Community interest in the scheme is considerable and to afford people the best opportunity to participate warrants a minimum of 12 weeks for consultation. This is consistent with the DCLG guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) which states at paragraph 25 'Consultation should be thorough effective and proportionate'.</p> <p>Interest Groups - how will interest groups be supported to make meaningful contributions which are taken into account? Community interest groups are likely to represent their wider membership; the majority of voluntary sector organisations active in Thurrock represent social care needs including vulnerable residents and cross cutting protected characteristics according to the Equalities Act 2010. Concern has previously been raised that over 10,000 responses were not included in the 2016 consultation exercise as they were considered to be organised. Organisation and representation is a key function of an interest group, so how will these responses be properly and fully considered and taken into account in the further development of the scheme?</p> <p>Notice period - We stressed the need for communication prior to the consultation so that people would receive information and be prepared for the consultation; this remains the case and appears to have slipped off the list. It is noted that Essex Chambers of Commerce are holding a consultation event for businesses in September – and advertising of this has already started. This can be viewed as alienating the residents if the first event they are hearing about is for businesses only: https://www.essexchambers.co.uk/events/lower_thames_crossing_business_consultation_breakfast.htm</p>
18	<p>Error in numbering paragraphs - There are two paragraphs numbered 18. Paragraphs and any cross referenced paragraphs should be changed e.g. paragraph 26 which should refer to paragraph 21.</p> <p>Accessibility - From an accessibility point of view an easy read version should be available in hard copy and web based, this includes translations.</p> <p>Scheme summary leaflets - should be provided to homes/businesses/schools in advance of the consultation, notifying go live dates rather than waiting until the consultation commences to get this information out. There is a need to provide as much of a lead in as possible for it to stand a chance of being viewed as an authentic and adequate exercise.</p>
18 table	<p>Leaflet – the leaflet announcing the consultation and consultation events should be sent in advance to ensure there is sufficient notification of the commencement of consultation and the public exhibition events.</p> <p>Email – as above.</p> <p>Social media – can you please provide further information as to what this will include? It is very difficult to provide any meaningful comments or suggestions based on such a vague statement.</p> <p>Statutory notices – rather than stating 'appropriate local and national newspapers', this should state 'in those local and national newspapers set out in appendix 2'.</p>

	<p>Media – this should state which newspapers the local media will appear in. Again it is difficult to comment on whether the Council considers this to be adequate when the detail is lacking in the SoCC.</p> <p>Public information events – if any event is cancelled an equivalent event in the locality should be rescheduled. This paragraph implies events may be cancelled. Can we have a comment about taking all reasonable endeavours to reschedule an event?</p> <p>Additional promotional activity – this should be read in conjunction with the comments on the numbers and locations of events within the Borough. As things currently stand, the Council is concerned that events are being held at times and in locations which are not accessible for all. As a consequence, more detail about the mobile information unit, may go some way to address those concerns but in the absence of any detailed information within the SoCC, the Council is unable to comment. Consideration could also be given to high streets etc. – the Council will provide information on suggested locations; detail to follow.</p> <p>Ad hoc meetings – It is positive that HE will attend meetings if invited but these groups need to be made aware of this so that they can invite them along. If groups have no knowledge that this could be an option then they are unlikely to invite HE. Can you confirm you will be making contact with those groups to inform them that you will offer to meet?</p> <p>Paper copies of project information on request – this implies that a charge of £135 could be made for either the consultation booklet or the PEIR. It must be made clear on the face of the SoCC that printed copies of the consultation booklet and response forms will be available free of charge. To charge for a consultation booklet is inconsistent with other Highways England projects</p> <p>Alternative formats – copies of the consultation booklet and response form should be made available in ‘easy read’ format.</p> <p>Posters – We would welcome the receipt of posters advertising the consultation and highlighting key engagement dates. We have a network of community volunteers, who update local noticeboards, and we can co-ordinate the distribution of both hard and e-copy posters in advance of the consultation start date. The posters should reference the consultation events in our Borough only</p>
<p>21 Public information event locations, dates and times</p>	<p>Responses should be ‘received’ by the deadline rather than ‘sent’ before the deadline.</p> <p>Young people - How will young people, schools and colleges be targeted? Consideration ought to be given to these young people in education who may not be the easiest to engage in consultation but who will be driving by the time this scheme is built. Given the reference at meetings towards prosperity for Thurrock, economic opportunities for young people particularly and creating the skills base in Thurrock to secure technical construction jobs it is surprising to note that there is nothing in the SoCC which specifically targets young people. The two original primary schools HE intended to visit in Thurrock for the purpose of public events have been removed, is there a reason why?</p> <p>Travellers – There is community of travellers in close proximity to the route and therefore regard must be had to ensure consultation materials and information is accessible to them. We can provide support and assistance to facilitate this on the basis that sufficient time and notice is provided.</p> <p>Other hard to reach groups - Different areas will have different outcomes they want to achieve and the local engagement needs to reflect these differences. Greater consideration of hard to reach groups needs to be given. Thurrock Council will provide suggestions of how and where this could be achieved.</p> <p>Event locations - This is not proportionate – 31% of these meetings take place in Thurrock. Considering 80% of the route cuts through Thurrock this should be much</p>

	<p>higher. Locations chosen aren't ideal either. Lakeside is not likely to capture a vast amount of Thurrock residents particularly on the last weekend of half term, most visitors will be from outside the Borough. Linford Methodist Church is small and has very limited parking, given that residents from East Tilbury, West Tilbury and surrounding areas to the east of the Borough are likely to want to attend this meeting, the venue would not be able to cope with the number of attendees. The date also needs clarifying (14th October is a Sunday and not a Wednesday as stated). Orsett Hall hotel cannot be travelled to by public transport; this will exclude a large number of people from attending. We would have expected to see something in Tilbury but the nearest would either be Chadwell or Linford – there are not adequate transport links in place to support residents in Tilbury, who have lower than average car ownership, and experience higher inequalities to other parts of the Borough, to attend. Thurrock Council will provide further detail on alternative locations in the Borough.</p> <p>Event dates/times – The Council is concerned to note that a number of the consultation events are being held over the course of the October half term break which may result in local people being away on holiday from the area. There is a concern that a consultation event has been scheduled near the end of the consultation period in Chadwell St Mary which is one of the borough's most affected areas by this project. The event should be brought forward to earlier in the consultation period to enable proper engagement from local people affected by the project.</p>
Deposit location s table	<p>Locations - There needs to be more in Thurrock, consideration should be given to all libraries/hubs, Civic Offices and the Beehive – all are known locally as key information points. Thurrock Council will suggest alternative venues to HE.</p>
Information points table	<p>Opening times - Some of the opening times are incorrect – for example Corringham closes at 1pm every Saturday.</p> <p>Locations - Given that the East Tilbury Village hall is only open 2 half days a week could an alternative venue also be looked at? Maybe the Post Office? Could the Council offices also be a point and Purfleet Community Hub. As detailed above the Council will provide further information about these suggested locations.</p>
Appendix x 1	<p>It could be argued that areas to the West (Purfleet/Aveley) and to the East (Stanford/Corringham/Fobbing/Horndon) will not be fully engaged in the process because they are not 'living in the vicinity of the land to which the DCO relates'. There are no Information Events in these locations and it is unclear what the proposed Information Points will provide (although these are usually static posters and leaflet provision). This has the potential for a low response rate from Thurrock residents and businesses who will be affected by the LTC. We are able to provide suggested venues – details to follow.</p>
Appendix x 2	<p>The Council is satisfied that the Thurrock Gazette should host the statutory notices however, it would wish to see specific mention of the other local media to be used to publicise events, including: Thurrock Enquirer and Your Thurrock.</p>
General	<p>Equality and Diversity Monitoring – Is HE capturing monitoring data to report on the profile of responders?</p> <p>Structure of response form - What is the structure of the response form- guided questions? How will HE collate wider narrative that isn't constructed in a simple to analyse format by consultees? How will HE collate responses in practical terms?</p> <p>Council's systems - Need to ensure that we can link to this consultation from the Councils consultation portal – can be organised by Thurrock Council</p> <p>Past engagement - Interesting to note in HE's recent blog about the engagement they have been carrying out, all schools and businesses they have attended, only one in Thurrock noted and that was in Tilbury Port, there is no mention of this past</p>

	engagement activity in the SoCC. How will this be addressed ahead or after the formal consultation? https://highwaysengland.co.uk/lower-thames-crossing-out-and-about-june-2018/
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Addendum information for SoCC response:

Reference	Comment
Para 18 Table	<p>Mobile Information Van – Suggested Locations in addition to those already suggested by HE in ET, CSM, Grays, Orsett, Ockendon</p> <p>Tilbury – Dock Road near the Train Station or the shops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Asda Car Park - East Tilbury – Coal House Fort - Village Hall Car Park – maybe during library opening hours (Thurs/Fri) <p>Bulphan Village Hall Car Park (Friday afternoons is best)</p> <p>Corringham Town Centre – St Johns Walk</p> <p>Stanford le Hope – High Street / Car Park / Hardie Park</p> <p>South Ockendon – train station car park</p> <p>Chafford 100 – car Park at Beacon Centre</p> <p>Aveley – at the recreation car park if early October or football ground</p> <p>Purfleet – The Green by Children’s Centre</p> <p>West Thurrock – Cowdry Hall or St Clements (new health centre) car park</p> <p>Orsett Hospital Car Park / Orsett Village Hall Car Park or Orsett Churches Centre, High Rd</p> <p>Traveller sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ship Lane, Aveley, RM15 4HB - Gammon Field Site, Long Lane, Grays, RM16 2QH - Pilgrims Lane site, North Stifford, Grays, RM16 5UZ
Para 18 Table	<p>Posters</p> <p>We are able to distribute 200 hard copies detailing engagement opportunities in Thurrock to estates and neighbourhoods via community volunteers who will display in local notice boards.</p> <p>Further distribution can be via email with volunteers printing and displaying.</p>
Para 18 page 8 Public information event locations, dates	<p>Provide an easy read version, or poster inviting people to come and talk about the plans.</p>

and times – Hard to Reach groups	<p>Providing 12 weeks so that interest groups have sufficient time to make members aware, engage around key areas of support or concern and represent views – clarity on how these will be used as consultation responses needed</p> <p>Ensuring groups know in advance they can invite HE to meetings – consider arranging a meeting with CVS (Thurrock Community for Voluntary Service) as they can ask voluntary sector organisation representatives to attend.</p> <p>Promoting a commitment to braille or translation and exploring practical engagement alternatives if barriers to participation are identified.</p> <p>Including venues that are near schools to engage young people and / or presenting to the youth cabinet early in the process so they can promote the consultation period to peers</p> <p>Ensuring outreach to traveller sites (see above).</p>
Page 10 Public Information Event locations	<p>Additional venues for consideration include:</p> <p>Tilbury Community Association</p> <p>East Tilbury Primary School, East Tilbury Village Hall, or St Clere’s School</p> <p>Aveley Football Ground</p> <p>Purfleet High House</p>
Deposit locations	<p>To include:</p> <p>Civic Offices, Grays</p> <p>All libraries / hubs</p> <p>Hardie Park Community Group</p> <p>The Beehive, Grays</p>
Information points	<p>Include Purfleet Community Hub.</p> <p>Consider an additional location for East Tilbury – as library has limited opening hours. – Coalhouse Fort Information Centre, Post Office.</p>
App 1 General	<p>Venues outside designated vicinity are included in response above</p> <p>Web links to HE’s online consultation are needed at least 5 working days before go live date so we can link and promote via our consultation portal . ‘Go live’ date and time also needed so ours can go out simultaneously.</p>

Table F.2 Tabular breakdown of local authority comments, the Applicant’s response and changes to SoCC

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant’s response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
Ashford District Council	Ashford District Council said it would respond to the Statutory Consultation.	The Applicant thanks you for your comments.	None
Cambridgeshire County Council	The council asked that the Applicant consult on the draft SoCC with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), on the grounds that CPCA is the transport authority for Cambridgeshire.	Due to the widespread regional interest in the Project, the Applicant considered carefully which local authorities should be consulted about the draft SoCC. The statutory obligations set out in s.47 of the Planning Act 2008 require consultation with any local authority that includes land affected by the Project, and this was done. The Applicant also extended the consultation to include all district authorities within Essex and Kent and all neighbouring local authorities as defined by s.43(2) of the Planning Act 2008, which include Cambridgeshire County Council. Having already consulted significantly beyond the statutory requirements, the Applicant declines the request to extend the formal draft SoCC consultation to an additional local authority.	None
Castle Point Borough Council	Castle Point Borough Council said it had no suggested changes to the draft SoCC.	The Applicant thanks you for your comments.	None
Chelmsford City Council	Chelmsford City Council said it had no comments on the draft	The Applicant thanks you for your comments.	None

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant’s response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
	SoCC and looked forward to the Statutory Consultation.		
Dartford Borough Council	<p>Distribution area</p> <p>Dartford Borough Council asked if the leaflet drop would include non-residential premises.</p>	The Applicant can confirm that leaflets will be delivered to all addresses in the leaflet distribution area, including business addresses.	The leaflet section was updated to make it clear the distribution included residential and non-residential addresses (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).
	<p>Events</p> <p>The council made the following comments about the choice of public information event venue in Dartford.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for a staff room for 20-25 people at the public information events was questioned because this excluded too many venues that might otherwise be suitable. • Use of a town centre location was requested to ensure high attendance, particularly among ‘hard to reach’ populations. • It was stated that the Mick Jagger Centre might not be popular due to its location. 	The Applicant is grateful to Dartford Borough Council for suggesting potential event venues during the informal draft SoCC engagement that took place in 2017-18. Several of the suggested venues in Dartford town centre were investigated, including The Orchard Theatre, The Orchards and The Priory shopping centres, but none were available. As such, the Applicant has continued its plan to use the Mick Jagger Centre for the public information event in Dartford.	None.

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
	<p>Information points The council suggested Dartford Civic Centre as an information point because it has high footfall.</p>	<p>The Applicant is grateful for the suggestion and has liaised with council officers to make Dartford Civic Centre an information point during Statutory Consultation.</p>	<p>Dartford Civic Centre added as an information point (paragraph 25 of the published SoCC).</p>
	<p>Contact with organisations The council expressed concern about a lack of detail as to which local organisations were planned to be contacted at the launch of Statutory Consultation and asked to share the list in order to comment constructively.</p>	<p>The strategy for consulting and engaging with major businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises in Dartford and across the Project has been centred around 'a few to the many' approach. Since the Preferred Route Announcement in April 2017, the Applicant has had regular and ongoing consultation and engagement with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, Federation of Small Businesses (Kent branch), Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Kent and Medway Economic Partnership, Thames Gateway Kent Partnership and Bluewater Shopping Centre (Land Securities). The Applicant is working with officers to arrange a bespoke business breakfast briefing for firms based in Dartford and is open to any suggestions the borough council may have in terms of groups to engage. The Applicant looks forward to meeting businesses face to face at the planned public information events this autumn.</p> <p>The Applicant has attached a list of Dartford community and hard-to-reach groups that it intends to engage during Statutory Consultation and beyond. If you have any</p>	<p>None.</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
	<p>Advertising The council suggested advertising the Statutory Consultation in the Dartford Messenger.</p>	<p>comments on these or would like to suggest additional groups to get in touch with, please let the Applicant know.</p> <p>The Applicant can confirm that the consultation will be advertised in the Dartford Messenger and the Dartford edition of the Kentish Times.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p>Social media The council asked what plans there are for promoting the consultation via social media.</p>	<p>From 10 October, the Applicant will be promoting the consultation through its websites and through the Lower Thames Crossing Twitter account @lowerthames, as well as through the Applicant's Twitter and Facebook channels. This promotion will run through until 20 December, when the consultation closes. The activity will be focused on encouraging people to attend one of the consultation events or to visit www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/haveyoursay in order to respond to the consultation, and to have their say. The Applicant would be grateful for any support you can provide in promoting the consultation between 10 October and 20 December to help reach as many of your residents and local businesses as possible through all your available communications channels – including your website and any social media channels you use.</p>	<p>Social media information was updated (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
Dover District Council	Events Dover District Council asked for a public information event in East Kent because the Lower Thames Crossing will have significant traffic impacts in the region, suggesting that Dover Town Hall be the venue.	Based on your feedback, the Applicant has arranged an additional public information event at Dover Town Hall, to take place on Tuesday 4 December 2018 from 2pm to 9pm.	Dover public information event added to the list of events (paragraph 23 of the published SoCC).
	Stakeholder relations The council asked for an update from the Applicant for the council leadership team, preferably on the day of the suggested Dover public information event.	The Applicant will arrange a meeting with the borough's leadership at a suitable time, either on the day of the public information event or on another date, to discuss the consultation further.	None.
Essex County Council	Additional promotional activity Essex County Council asked that the additional promotional activity include transport hubs and shopping centres in South Essex and Essex.	The Applicant is holding a public information event at the Holiday Inn Brentwood on Wednesday 28 November, from 2pm to 9pm, and is also planning to carry out additional promotional activity at High Chelmer Shopping Centre in Chelmsford on 15 November and at the Victoria Shopping Centre in Southend on 26 October to raise the profile of the consultation. The Applicant will also be making additional visits to Essex, including Brentwood and Basildon, using the mobile information centre, which will provide further opportunities for local people to find out more about the proposals. These events will be promoted	The text describing additional promotional activity was updated, so it included the mobile information centre (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).

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		throughout the consultation period and the Applicant will be in touch with your communications team with further details, so that Essex County Council can assist in promoting events in the county.	
	<p>Email notifications and interest groups</p> <p>The council expressed concern that the draft SoCC did not define which individuals or interest groups were 'relevant' and so would receive a consultation launch notification email. The council said the Applicant's list of email recipients should be broader than just including previous Lower Thames Crossing consultees.</p>	<p>The Applicant will send an email notification of the launch of Statutory Consultation to everyone on the Lower Thames Crossing email database, which includes previous consultees as well as individuals, businesses, interest groups and organisations that have been identified as having an interest in the Project. The Applicant is also working with Dart Charge to notify users of the Dartford Crossing on their database about the consultation.</p> <p>The Applicant will work with local authorities to help them propagate information about the Project to their own email contact lists.</p> <p>The Applicant's overall communications strategy recognises the strategic importance of the Lower Thames Crossing, and is designed to reach the wider population across the region and the UK.</p>	None.
	<p>Leaflet distribution area</p> <p>The council said the 2km radius around the Project was not adequate and asked for leaflets to be distributed 'up the A12</p>	The Applicant has significantly expanded the leaflet distribution area since publishing the draft SoCC, and the area now includes a much larger part of Essex. The number of addresses that will receive a leaflet has been increased to around 270,000 addresses.	The leaflet distribution map was updated (Appendix 2 of the published SoCC).

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	<p>corridor to Brentwood and Chelmsford’.</p> <p>The council also asked that paper leaflets be sent to council offices across Essex.</p>	<p>However, leaflet distribution is only one channel which will publicise the consultation. While it is not cost effective to expand the leaflet distribution area along the A12 to Chelmsford, the Applicant is very happy to provide Essex County Council (and other local authorities) with leaflets to store at your offices and hand out to interested stakeholders, and will be in touch to arrange this with you.</p>	
	<p>Advertising</p> <p>The council asked that media advertising be ‘expanded to include affected boroughs and districts’.</p>	<p>The Applicant will be working closely with local authorities to ensure you have the leaflets and posters to publicise the consultation. However, the focus is very much on digitally based information and any help in promoting these to your residents would be gratefully received. The paid-for advertising campaign focuses on the local area and includes advertisements in the following Essex media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurrock Gazette • The Romford & Brentwood Recorder Series • Brentwood Gazette • Brentwood Yellow Advertiser • Southend Standard, Castle Point & Rayleigh Standard • Castle Point Yellow Advertiser 	<p>The advertising text was updated to make the plans clearer (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southend Yellow Advertiser • Essex Chronicle • Chelmsford & Mid Essex Times • Basildon Yellow Advertiser • Basildon & Southend Echo • Basildon Standard • Chelmsford & Maldon Yellow Advertiser • Maldon & Burnham Standard <p>The Applicant will be placing adverts on poster sites on the road network around Kent and Essex, and also on websites and social media.</p>	
	<p>Business engagement The council suggested engaging with Opportunity South Essex and offered to supply a list of contacts for business groups in the county.</p>	<p>The Applicant thanks you for your suggestions to reach out to Opportunity South Essex, the Chambers of Commerce and other business groups, and is already engaging with Opportunity South Essex and will be presenting to its board on 7 November. The Applicant is working closely with the Essex Chambers of Commerce and has plans for a number of joint events with them during the consultation.</p> <p>The strategy for consulting and engaging with major businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises in Essex and across the Project has been centred around ‘a few to the many’ approach. Since the Preferred Route Announcement in April 2017, the Applicant</p>	<p>None.</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant’s response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
		<p>has had regular and ongoing consultation and engagement with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Essex Chamber of Commerce, and has also attended and organised joint business events in Basildon, Southend-on-Sea, and Thurrock and Rochford, and plans to engage with a number of other business groups and forums during the consultation, which focus on South Essex including the Castle Point Business Forum (10 October), Brentwood Business Showcase (7 November) and Chelmsford Business Showcase (14 November). If you have any further suggestions on groups and individuals the Applicant should contact, please send this through.</p>	
<p>Gravesham Borough Council</p>	<p>Environment Gravesham Borough Council questioned the Project’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and scoping exercise and asked whether enough information has been provided in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the SoCC. The council also questioned whether the Project needs to produce a Habitats Regulations Assessment due to its proximity</p>	<p>You made a number of detailed comments regarding both the Application and consulting the community, particularly with regards to the EIA and PEIR. Rather than address them point by point here, the Applicant will provide a comprehensive response to any outstanding questions once you have received the consultation documentation on the launch day.</p>	<p>The following two sentences were added (paragraph 15 of the published SoCC): <i>‘The EIA will include an assessment of the significant impacts during both the construction and operation of the scheme. We will provide sufficient information about the Project to enable an assessment of the impacts of the scheme, including impacts on any protected European sites, to be undertaken.’</i> The list of consultation documents was updated in paragraph 17 of the SoCC to ensure it was accurate and the titles of those documents were presented accurately.</p>

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	<p>to the Ramsar protected marshland on the banks of the River Thames.</p> <p>Consultation documents</p> <p>The council said the consultation document list should be flagged as a 'work in progress', especially as further consultation is possible.</p> <p>The council said the SoCC should explain the 'level of detail' that will be provided for Statutory Consultation, saying what elements are fixed and what can change.</p> <p>Consultation</p> <p>The council asked for an explanation of how the Project objectives were agreed and consulted on and asked for Statutory Consultation to include information on the criteria that had been used to 'assess scheme performance...relative to reasonable alternatives' (paragraph 11).</p> <p>The council also requested inclusion of the Order Limits map in the SoCC.</p>		<p>A map of the route and the Order Limits was added (Appendix 1 of the published SoCC).</p> <p>The text was updated (paragraphs 6 and 12 of the published SoCC) to emphasise, as part of s.47, steps taken to consult not only those living in the vicinity but also community and interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users. The relevant paragraphs already in the SoCC were referred to, explaining the activities that are planned. The fact that the s.47 consultation is taking place concurrently with s.42 and s.48, was also referred to.</p> <p>The following lines were added and a link to the Planning Inspectorate guidance note was added (paragraphs 27 to 29 of the published SoCC):</p> <p><i>'Following Statutory Consultation, we will have careful regard to what people had to say and take account of this as we continue to develop our proposals. We will then prepare and submit a DCO application; notices will be published if the application is accepted for examination, which will allow the public to submit representations and participate in the examination process. More information about the application process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's website at</i></p> <p>https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/.</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
	<p>Project summary The council asked that the text 'living in the vicinity of' be updated to include businesses and people working and passing through the area (paragraphs 6 and 12) and ensure SoCC activities reflect these different audiences.</p> <p>DCO application The council asked for more information about the DCO Application process to be included in the SoCC.</p> <p>The council asked for a commitment to advertise the DCO beyond the statutory minimum and to include a diagram in the SoCC explaining the process, along with a link to the Planning Inspectorate guidance.</p>		
	<p>Public information events, deposit locations and information points The council questioned the Bluewater event times, advising they should align with centre opening times.</p>	<p>The Applicant thanks you for your comments regarding the Riverview Park area. The Applicant moved one of the Gravesham Civic Centre events to the Cascades Leisure Centre, and Riverview Park Library (along with Gravesham Civic Centre) will be an information point. The information points will publicise the consultation and make</p>	<p>The relevant event times and locations (paragraph 23 of the published SoCC) and the list of information points were updated to include Gravesham Civic Centre and Riverview Park Library (paragraph 25).</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
	<p>The council requested an event at Riverview Park area because it is strongly affected by the Project.</p> <p>The council said they would like Gravesham Civic Centre (Windmill Street) to be a deposit location and that Riverview Park Library should be an information point.</p>	<p>consultation materials (including leaflets, copies of the Lower Thames Crossing Guide to Consultation, and response forms) available to the public. In addition, the Applicant's mobile information centre will be visiting Cascades Leisure Centre on 6 December.</p> <p>Event times in the draft SoCC were provisional and have now been updated to match centre opening times (for all shopping centre events).</p> <p>The Applicant believes an adequate number of deposit locations has been provided in the area; these locations include Gravesend Library.</p>	
	<p>Hard to reach</p> <p>The council asked for the inclusion of a section in the SoCC on how the Project plans to engage with harder to reach populations during Statutory Consultation.</p>	<p>Regarding your helpful comments on the communication of the SoCC, the Applicant notes and shares your overall requirement for the consultation to be as wide as possible. As such, any help Gravesham can offer in promoting the consultation to local residents and businesses through your borough's communications channels would be greatly appreciated.</p>	<p>Information was added about how harder-to-reach audiences would be engaged with (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>
	<p>Advertising</p> <p>The council asked that the advertising campaign include radio.</p>	<p>The paid-for advertising campaign focuses on the local area, but given the significance of the Project, is also designed to reach a wider population across the region and UK. The Applicant will be placing adverts in local printed media, out-of-home advertising at key</p>	<p>Information was added as to how advertising and social media would be used to promote Statutory Consultation (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
		<p>locations in Kent and Essex, and also on websites and social media. As part of the wide publicity campaign, press releases to the media will encourage media outlets to provide editorial coverage of the consultation. In Kent, Project advertising will appear in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent Messenger (KM) (Maidstone, Malling, Medway, Sittingbourne and the Weald) • Kentish Times & Reporter Series (Bexley, Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend) • Gravesend & Dartford Messenger (series) & Messenger Extra • Thanet KM Extra • Isle of Thanet Gazette • Medway Messenger • Sheerness Times Guardian • Sittingbourne News Extra 	
<p>Kent County Council</p>	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment / Accessibility Kent County Council asked for a section in the SoCC referencing the Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) and explaining how Statutory Consultation has been made</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that it does refer to the EIA within the SoCC, which will be available at deposit locations throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>The Applicant has taken steps to ensure the consultation is available to groups that have protected characteristics under equalities legislation. These include: making events and materials more accessible to people with</p>	<p>Information as to how equalities would be considered, was added. (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

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	<p>accessible. The council listed the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation website and any associated PDFs should be made accessible to screen-reader software for the visually impaired. • All consultation event venues should be accessible to those with impaired mobility. • An Easy Read version of the consultation guide should be made available on request to help those with learning difficulties to understand and respond. • A Consultation EQIA should be available at deposit locations <p>Consultation The council advised user-testing take place, particularly of the consultation guide.</p>	<p>disabilities (all public information events will be fully accessible to the mobility impaired and those with prams); and carrying out focus groups targeted at specific populations.</p> <p>The Applicant is producing an Easy Read version of the consultation information and will consider requests for alternative document formats (for example, translations, large print or Braille) to help all members of the public to view and comment on the consultation documents where it is reasonably practical to do so.</p>	
	<p>Website The council suggested the use of the Stickyworld online tool.</p>	<p>It is Highway England's policy to use Citizen Space as its online platform for consultation. However, the Applicant can assure you that it is designing the online consultation content to be entirely in line with the Guide to Statutory</p>	<p>None.</p>

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		Consultation document and the physical events experience, and to be as simple and straightforward to use as possible. It will include all of the content from the guide, including images and maps.	
	<p>Consultation period The council recommended a 12-week consultation, saying the scale of the proposals justified this length of time.</p>	As you will be aware, there is a legal requirement that consultations run for a minimum of 28 days. Given the scope and scale of the proposal, the Applicant will be carrying out a 10-week consultation.	None.
	<p>Information points The council said Shorne Woods Country Park visitor centre opening hours, 10am-4pm, should be updated, being different from the park opening hours.</p>	The materials have been updated accordingly.	The information point listing the correct opening hours, was updated (paragraph 25 of the published SoCC).
	<p>Consultation Report The council asked for publication of Consultation Report within 12 weeks, with an approximate date in the SoCC.</p>	While the Applicant is unable to commit to publication within a 12-week time period, it intends to publish information about the consultation in a timely fashion after the consultation has closed and before the DCO Application. The Applicant will continue to work to keep you updated on the Project's progress.	None.
	<p>Leaflet distribution area</p>	The Applicant has expanded the area significantly since publishing the draft SoCC. A total of 270,000 addresses will now receive a leaflet, including the section of Medway that	The leaflet distribution area was updated (Appendix 2 of the published SoCC).

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	<p>The council suggested extending the area east to include Cliffe Woods and Medway.</p>	<p>includes Cliffe, Cliffe Woods, High Halstow and St Mary Hoo.</p>	
	<p>Consultation events The council asked that Ebbsfleet International Station be visited, and for some morning consultation events to broaden their appeal.</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that the mobile information centre, where staff will be on hand to answer questions about the Project, will visit Ebbsfleet Station on 25 October. Public information events will largely take place during the afternoon and evenings, which is based on feedback from the 2016 consultation events. However, events at Bluewater on 20 and 21 October will open in the morning (9am and 11am respectively, in line with the opening hours of the shopping centre).</p>	<p>The opening hours for the Bluewater and Lakeside public information events in the event listings, were updated (paragraph 23 of the published SoCC).</p>
	<p>Advertising The council asked for more information about the proposed advertising campaign.</p>	<p>In Kent, the Project will be advertised in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentish Times & Reporter Series (Bexley, Bromley, Dartford, Gravesend) • Gravesend & Dartford Messenger (Series) and Messenger Extra • Kent Messenger (Maidstone, Malling, Medway, Sittingbourne and the Weald) • Thanet KM Extra • Isle of Thanet Gazette • Medway Messenger • Sheerness Times Guardian 	<p>More information about the advertising plans was added (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sittingbourne News Extra 	
Greater London Authority	The Greater London Authority thanked the Applicant for consulting with them and said it looked forward to engaging further with the Project.	The Applicant thanks you for your comments.	None
London Borough of Bexley	<p>Consultation Report</p> <p>The London Borough of Bexley asked that the Consultation Report be circulated to local authorities for comments before DCO Application.</p>	<p>The Applicant's Consultation Report will include clear explanations of how feedback from respondents has influenced the version of the Project in the DCO application. The Applicant understands the need for local authorities to provide the Planning Inspectorate with fully informed 'adequacy of consultation' statements and will take the necessary steps to help you do this.</p> <p>Although the timetable for issuing local authorities with copies of the Consultation Report is still to be determined, the Applicant will keep you informed if and when the proposed design changes.</p>	None
London Borough of Havering	<p>Consultation materials</p> <p>The London Borough of Havering asked that technical documents be supplied in a format the public can understand.</p>	The Guide to Statutory Consultation has been through a rigorous assurance process to ensure it is accurate and readable, providing comprehensive information for consultees. In addition to the guide and website, the Applicant will publish non-technical summaries of key documents such as the PEIR and Traffic Impact Summary. An Easy	The section on alternative formats was updated to include an Easy Read version of the consultation guide (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).

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	<p>Event publicity</p> <p>The council asked that event times and dates be published in advance of the consultation on the Applicant's website.</p>	<p>Read version of the consultation information is also to be published.</p> <p>Advanced publicity was contained in the Section 47 and 48 notices published this week and sent to you on Wednesday. The Applicant has also published event details on the website in advance of the launch, to coincide with the publication of the statutory notices.</p> <p>However, the Applicant is concentrating communications activity during the consultation period to ensure as many people who hear about the consultation are able to respond immediately. All events will be well publicised, using the channels outlined in paragraph 18 of the SoCC.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council asked that rescheduled events be well advertised, including via social media. • The council said it is essential that Romford Town Hall is used for a public information event, because it is accessible (available daytime and evening). • The council suggested the Centre of Engineering and 	<p>In response to your feedback, an additional public information event will be held at Havering Town Hall in Romford, as well as events in Upminster and at Havering College.</p> <p>The Applicant is also planning to carry out promotional activity at the CEME in Rainham, handing out leaflets and raising awareness of the consultation, and has already visited this venue to meet business representatives. As suggested, the London Riverside BID will also be contacted.</p>	<p>The events listing was updated (paragraph 23 of the published SoCC).</p>

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	<p>Manufacturing Excellence (CEME), Rainham (Essex), to engage with residents in the south and 300 businesses.</p>		
	<p>Social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council said it will publicise public information events via social media before and during the events. The council asked for liaison with their social media team before launch. 	<p>From 10 October, the Applicant will be promoting the consultation through the websites and through the Lower Thames Crossing Twitter account, @lowerthames, as well as through the Applicant's Twitter and Facebook channels. This promotion will run through until 20 December, when the consultation closes. Activity will be focused on encouraging people to attend one of the consultation events or to visit the consultation website to respond to the consultation. The Applicant thanks you for publicising the Havering events using your social media channels and will be in touch with your communications team shortly to provide the information you need.</p> <p>In the unlikely event that changes are made to the public information events, every effort would be made to make people aware of the change.</p>	<p>Social media information was updated (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>
	<p>Stakeholder engagement</p> <p>The council welcomed the offer to meet community reps and</p>	<p>The Applicant thanks you for your offer to help facilitate meetings with community leaders and interest groups. A number of groups have been contacted already, but if there are particular groups you feel require</p>	<p>None.</p>

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	offered to help facilitate these meetings.	engagement, the Applicant will be happy to discuss this.	
	<p>Advertising and media</p> <p>The council asked for promotion of the consultation through Time FM and their own council magazine, Living, including placing an article about the Project in the latter. The council also said it would issue a press release publicising the consultation.</p>	<p>The paid-for advertising campaign focuses on the local area but, given the significance of the Project, is also designed to reach a wider population across the region and UK. The Applicant will be placing adverts in local printed media, on poster sites on the road network, and also on websites and social media.</p> <p>As part of the wider publicity campaign, the Applicant will issue press releases to the media and offer interviews to broadcast media, including Time FM. Additional support from the London Borough of Havering would be welcomed and the Applicant will be happy to help provide the relevant information. The Applicant thanks you for offering to promote the consultation using your <i>Living</i> magazine, and will be in touch with your communications team to arrange this.</p>	None.
	<p>Response form</p> <p>The council asked that it be made clear that free text responses are valid, not just response forms.</p>	The Applicant agrees it is important that consultees know they can provide free text responses as well as completing a response form, and has reviewed the SoCC to ensure this is clear.	None.
	<p>Deposit locations</p>	There will be one deposit location in the London Borough of Havering, at Romford	The information point listings were updated (paragraph 25 of the published SoCC).

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	<p>The council suggested use of Rainham library as a deposit location.</p>	<p>Library. Rainham Library has been added as an information point.</p>	
	<p>Distribution area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council asked for confirmation that Cranham and Upminster wards are included. • The council asked for Harold Wood ward to be included also (west of Gallows Corner). • The council asked for South Hornchurch ward to be included too due to proximity to M25 and A13. <p>The council said it would comment further on the distribution area when the traffic modelling data had been analysed.</p>	<p>The Applicant can confirm that the leaflet distribution area includes Cranham and Upminster wards. The distribution area also covers most of Harold Wood ward (except for the area of the ward north of the A12) and South Hornchurch ward.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p>Statutory notices</p> <p>The council recommended the Romford Recorder and the Yellow Advertiser for publication of s47 notices.</p>	<p>The Applicant's email of 4 October provided notification of where the statutory notices would be published. Following your feedback, paid-for advertising will be placed in the Yellow Advertiser (Romford, Hornchurch, Upminster) and Romford Recorder.</p>	<p>Havering Yellow Advertiser (Romford, Hornchurch, Upminster) was added to the list of publications giving statutory notices (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant’s response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
Maidstone Borough Council	<p>Social media and website Maidstone Borough Council asked the following questions about social media and website promotion of the consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are Twitter and Facebook being used? • Is the council expected to carry out activity? Should local authorities have a link to the consultation on our websites? • What’s the target audience and how long should the council carry out promotional activity? • What assets will be available to help local authorities promote the consultation? 	<p>From 10 October, the Applicant will be promoting the consultation through its websites and through the Lower Thames Crossing Twitter account @lowerthames, as well as through the Applicant’s Twitter and Facebook channels. This promotion will run through until 20 December, when the consultation closes. Activity will be focused on encouraging people to attend one of the consultation events or to visit the consultation website to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>While you aren’t legally obliged to promote the consultation through your digital channels, the Applicant would be grateful for any support you can provide in promoting the consultation between 10 October and 20 December to help reach as many of your residents as possible (who, in this instance, are the target audience) through all your digital channels such as your website, Twitter, Facebook, and so on.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p>Events The council asked if there is a minimum number of events that will be held.</p> <p>Additional promotional activity The council asked when this will be confirmed and how it will be publicised.</p>	<p>Planning legislation does not specify the number of face-to-face events that need to be held to support a DCO Application. As part of a robust and extensive consultation, the Applicant will be holding around 60 events in Essex, Thurrock and Kent, as well as in the London Borough of Havering.</p> <p>All the public information events are listed in the section 47 and 48 notices that have</p>	<p>None.</p>

Local authority	Summary of comments from local authority on draft SoCC	The Applicant's response to the local authority	SoCC changes in response to local authority comments
		<p>already been shared with you. In addition, there will be a number of smaller events throughout the region which are aimed at promoting awareness of the consultation. The Applicant will be holding one such event in The Mall in Maidstone town centre on Thursday 18 October and will be in touch with the borough's communications department about publicising this event as well as the wider consultation.</p>	
	<p>Stakeholder engagement The council asked how local authorities arrange a face-to-face briefing and whether this information would be in the SoCC. The council asked whether contact details (email, post, phone) would be provided to arrange ad hoc meetings.</p>	<p>The Applicant would be very happy to arrange a face-to-face briefing with your borough. Please specify when you would like to meet and what issues you would like to discuss, to ensure the Applicant has the appropriate Project representatives at the meeting. Highway England's phone, email and postal contact details will be published on the Project website and in consultation materials, and were in the SoCC notices that were sent to you.</p>	None.
	<p>Consultation materials The council asked if there will be a charge for alternative formats, and how and when local authority staff will be briefed, such as at customer contact centres.</p>	<p>The Applicant would be grateful if your contact staff could use the information published in the SoCC sent to you to direct people towards the Project website and customer contact centres. The Applicant will be producing a very simple guide about the Lower Thames Crossing for your customer contact staff ready for the launch on 10</p>	None.

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		October. However, if they need more information, please contact the Applicant.	
Maldon District Council	Maldon District Council said the draft SoCC is written in plain English and is thorough in its approach to consulting local communities.	The Applicant thanks you for your comments.	None.
Medway Council	Medway Council said it considered the approach set out in the draft SoCC to be sound.	The Applicant thanks you for your comments.	None.
Thurrock Council	Consultation duration Thurrock Council asked for a 12-week consultation, to help hard-to-reach groups to mobilise.	There is a minimum 28-day period for Statutory Consultation. As public consultation is a key part of how the Project is developed, the Applicant is allowing 10 weeks for consultation, which will ensure people have sufficient time to understand and respond to the proposals.	None.

	<p>Events</p> <p>The council raised concerns about events taking place during half-term.</p> <p>The council criticised events for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lakeside would have too many non-Thurrock residents • Linford venue is too small with limited parking • Orsett Hall Hotel has poor public transport • Tilbury should have an event due to low car ownership. <p>The council said the Chadwell St Mary event is too near the end of the consultation period, and asked for additional events at Purfleet High House, East Tilbury, Aveley Football Ground and Tilbury Community Association.</p> <p>Cancellation</p> <p>The council said consultation events must not be cancelled.</p>	<p>Arranging accessible and convenient events for stakeholders to attend is a priority for us. The Applicant recognises that Thurrock has around 50% of the route within its boundaries and this is reflected in the scheduling of events. Thurrock will host twice as many public information events as any other local authority.</p> <p>The events programme will reach the desired range of populations across the Project: Lakeside is a major shopping venue that is popular with local and non-local people; Linford is a smaller community but is at the heart of an affected community; and Orsett Hall was a popular public information event venue for consultation in 2016.</p> <p>In response to feedback, the Applicant replaced one of the Orsett Hall events with one at the Tilbury Community Association. The date of the Chadwell St Mary event was based on venue availability. This event takes place during the consultation period, with at least 10 days afterwards for consultees to consider any additional information and respond to the consultation. While the Applicant will endeavour to hold all of these events at the published locations and times, it may not always be possible to do so due to unforeseen circumstances or events beyond its control. In the unlikely case that it is necessary to change event details or cancel events, every effort would be made to inform</p>	<p>The events listings were updated (paragraph 23 of the published SoCC).</p>
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		the public of those changes, including updating the consultation website.	
	<p>Deposit locations The council suggested additional locations for deposit locations, including the Civic Centre, and all libraries and hubs in Thurrock.</p>	<p>There will be a deposit location at Grays Library, which is very close to the Civic Centre, and another at Tilbury Hub, which is very close to the Project. The Applicant has made paper copies of the full suite of consultation documents available in this area, in line with its statutory obligations. Thurrock is the only borough with two deposit locations.</p>	None.
	<p>Information points The council suggested the post office in East Tilbury as an information point because it has longer opening hours than the village hall or library, and also suggested the Civic Office, Purfleet Community hub, Hardie Park and Coalhouse Fort. The council asked that opening times for all venues be checked because some were wrong.</p>	<p>The Applicant has expanded the number of information points, which now includes the Civic Centre. In addition, East Tilbury Post Office has agreed to host consultation information, as has Purfleet Community Hub and The Beehive Community Centre. The Applicant has tried to contact both Coalhouse Fort and Hardie Park but did not receive a response.</p>	The information points section was updated (paragraph 25 of the published SoCC).
	<p>Campaigns and petitions The council asked how organised responses from interest groups will be reported and considered.</p>	<p>Interest groups and organisations will be supported throughout the consultation. The Applicant will be writing to groups, inviting them to consultation events and providing them with consultation documentation. Petitions and campaigns are valid ways of</p>	None.

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		<p>responding to a consultation, and each such response will be analysed by the external agency and considered by the Applicant.</p> <p>All campaign responses will be reported accurately and transparently. The report will make clear how many individual responses were submitted through each campaign, and the issues raised will be described. It is often appropriate to present the analysis of those responses separately from other types of response, or otherwise explain the role that campaign responses have had in making certain themes disproportionately prominent.</p> <p>The issues raised in the opening statements of any petitions submitted will be analysed in the usual way, and the Applicant will ensure that the number of signatories and the issues described are reported clearly and in full.</p>	

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	<p>Notice period The council asked for Project summary information, such as leaflets or emails, to be sent to residents, businesses and schools before the consultation launch.</p>	<p>The Applicant is concentrating communications activity and promotion of Statutory Consultation during the consultation period to ensure that people, upon hearing about the consultation, are able to immediately find the information they need to respond to it.</p> <p>Leaflets and emails will be circulated from the launch of consultation on 10 October 2018. This will provide residents with advance notice of events. Distributing from the day of launch will also ensure that residents will be able to find all the consultation documentation online immediately upon receiving the leaflet/email/letter.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p>Social media The council asked for more information about the proposed social media campaign.</p>	<p>From 10 October, the Applicant will be promoting the consultation through its websites and through the Lower Thames Crossing Twitter account @lowerthames, as well as through the Applicant's Twitter and Facebook channels. This promotion will run until 20 December, when the consultation closes. Activity will be focused on encouraging people to attend one of the consultation events or to visit the consultation website to respond to the consultation.</p>	<p>None.</p>

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	<p>Printed consultation materials The council said that the wording in the draft SoCC suggests there will be a charge for printed copies of the guide.</p>	<p>The Applicant will provide the borough with one full printed set of the consultation materials in addition to those supplied at any the deposit locations. This will not be charged for.</p> <p>The Applicant has reviewed the SoCC text to make it clear that there is normally no charge to supply leaflets, response forms or copies of the Guide to Statutory Consultation. However, if requests for large numbers of materials are received for a single address, the Applicant reserves the right to apply appropriate charges to cover costs.</p>	<p>The section on copies of consultation documents was updated (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>
	<p>Promotional materials The council asked for posters showing information about the consultation and borough-specific event dates.</p> <p>Accessibility The council asked for Easy Read information to be included as part of the consultation materials and asked whether free translations of consultation materials will be available.</p>	<p>The Applicant will be working with local authorities to ensure they have the information and marketing collateral available to publicise the consultation effectively, and will be providing some printed materials, including leaflets, but a stronger emphasis is on digital channels.</p> <p>The Applicant will produce an Easy Read version of the consultation guide and has also committed to considering Braille or translated consultation materials on request, and to exploring other ways of engaging constructively with consultees with additional needs.</p>	<p>The Applicant updated the alternative formats section, saying it will produce an Easy Read version of the guide (paragraph 18 of the published SoCC).</p>

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	<p>Response form The council queried the responses ‘received by’ deadline, saying for postal responses it should be a ‘sent by’ deadline. The council asked how free text responses will be analysed.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement The council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asked for more information on school/college engagement • offered help with traveller engagement • objected to a pre-launch consultation breakfast, which appeared to favour businesses <p>Previous engagement The council was concerned there was no mention of previous engagement activity in the</p>	<p>To ensure all responses posted before the closing time are accepted, the Applicant will accept posted responses that have a postmark on or before 21 December 2018. The response form will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to feed back on the overall proposal and on separate elements of it. The Applicant will accept free text responses and analyse these using the same criteria as would be used to analyse structured responses received via the response form. The response form will be published at the launch of public consultation.</p> <p>Since the Preferred Route Announcement in 2017, the Applicant has worked extensively with local authorities and residents in the development of the Project. To engage with young people, primary and secondary head teachers have been contacted (via emails and meetings) in the areas most likely to be affected by the proposals. The Applicant has encouraged schools to circulate information about the Project to pupils and parents, and has also contacted youth centres and groups, encouraging them to share information about the Project.</p> <p>The Applicant appreciates the offer of help to engage with affected travelling communities and recognises that it is helpful to engage with them through existing local authority</p>	<p>It was made clearer that posted responses postmarked up to and including 21 December 2018 would be accepted. (paragraph 22 of the published SoCC).</p> <p>The following text was added, about previous engagement (paragraph 12 of the published SoCC): <i>‘The consultation activity set out in this SoCC builds on previous engagement and consultation activities that have taken place during the previous two consultations outlined in paragraph 13 and at other times.’</i></p>

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	SoCC, such as with schools and businesses.	<p>contacts. Other suggestions for engaging with hard to reach groups are also welcomed. The community engagement team has been and is in touch with the borough's Traveller Liaison Officer and is working to agree the engagement with travellers. The Applicant welcomes the fact that this subject will be discussed at the next weekly meeting.</p> <p>The engagement programme is tailored to meet the needs of local communities. However, the Applicant welcomes Thurrock's suggestions on engaging with hard to reach groups in the borough.</p> <p>The pre-launch consultation breakfast referred to was incorrectly advertised, and the webpage has now been taken down.</p> <p>At and ahead of the launch, the Applicant has contacted and will continue to contact established interest groups to arrange ad hoc meetings.</p> <p>The Applicant has added a line to the SoCC highlighting the fact that this latest consultation is part of the ongoing engagement activity.</p>	
	<p>Distribution area</p> <p>The council asked that Purfleet, Aveley, Stanford-le-Hope, Corringham, Fobbing, and Horndon receive leaflets.</p>	The Applicant has expanded the leaflet distribution area significantly since publishing the draft SoCC, with the following areas are now included: Aveley, Corringham, Fobbing, Horndon, Purfleet and Stanford-le-Hope.	The map of the leaflet distribution area was updated (Appendix 2 of the published SoCC).

	<p>Notices and media advertising</p> <p>The council asked that the Thurrock Gazette be used for statutory notices, as well as other media to advertise events, such as the Thurrock Enquirer and Your Thurrock.</p>	<p>The Applicant is publishing statutory notices in the Thurrock Gazette and Thurrock Independent. The advertising campaign is focused on the local area, but given the significance of the Project, it is also designed to reach a wider population across the region and UK. The Applicant will be placing adverts in local printed media, on poster sites on the road network around Kent and Essex, and also on websites and social media, and will be advertising in the Thurrock Enquirer, but not in Your Thurrock. The Applicant will be providing media releases to local newspapers and sites, including the Thurrock Gazette, Thurrock Enquirer and Your Thurrock. The paid-for advertising will run in the following Essex/Thurrock publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurrock Gazette • Thurrock and South Essex Independent • The Romford & Brentwood Recorder Series • Brentwood Gazette • Brentwood Yellow Advertiser • Southend Standard, Rayleigh, Rochford and Castle Point Standard • Castle Point Yellow Advertiser • Southend Yellow Advertiser • Essex Chronicle • Chelmsford & Mid Essex Times • Basildon Yellow Advertiser 	<p>None.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon & Southend Echo • Basildon Standard • Chelmsford & Maldon Yellow Advertiser • Maldon & Burnham Standard 	
	<p>Equality and diversity monitoring The council asked what equality and diversity monitoring will take place.</p>	<p>The consultation will include questions to gather information on the types of people that respond to the consultation, such as their age, disabilities and ethnicity. The Applicant will use this information in accordance with data protection laws to monitor the diversity of consultees.</p>	None.
	<p>Website The council asked for a link to the consultation website five days before launch.</p>	<p>The consultation website will be at www.lowerthamescrossing.co.uk/haveyoursay. The site will go live on 10 October, when the consultation launches. It is currently displaying a holding page, listing the public information events on the Project website.</p>	None.

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	<p>Mobile information centre The council suggested holding mobile information centre events at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Tilbury: Coalhouse Fort; Village Hall car park during library opening hours. • Tilbury: Dock Road near the Train Station or the shops; Asda car park. • Bulphan Village Hall car park Friday pm. • Corringham town centre, St John's Way. • Stanford-le-Hope: High Street, car park, Hardie Park. • South Ockendon: Station car park. • Chafford Hundred: Beacon Centre car park; Hospital car park. • Orsett: Village Hall car park; Orsett Churches Centre; High Road. • Traveller sites: Ship Lane; Gammon Field; Pilgrims Lane. 	<p>The Applicant is planning to station the mobile information centre at the following locations on these dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilbury Town Centre, 5 November • Lakeside Shopping Centre car park, 16 November • Bulphan Village Hall car park, 23 November • South Ockendon, Derwent Parade, 29 November • Corringham town centre, 30 November • Orsett (by Whitmore Arms), 5 December • Grays town centre (Morrison's car park), 8 December • East Tilbury, 10 December • West Tilbury, 10 December 	<p>None.</p>

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Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ

National Highways Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363