

# Lower Thames Crossing

## 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices Appendix 13.1 – Population and Human Health Legislation and Policy

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# Lower Thames Crossing

## 6.3 Environmental Statement Appendices

### Appendix 13.1 – Population and Human Health Legislation and Policy

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# 1 Population and human health legislation and policy framework

## 1.1 Legislation and Policy

1.1.1 This Population and Human Health assessment has been undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation, together with national, regional, and local plans and policies.

### Legislation

1.1.2 Relevant legislation that has been considered in the environmental assessment is presented in Table 1.1. The Planning Statement (Application Document 7.2) provides an assessment of the Project’s strategic alignment and conformity with the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN).

1.1.3 A number of the sources of legislation referred to throughout the ES, including this chapter, derive from the law of the European Union (EU). It is noted that the impact of European legislation may need to be revised following the UK’s exit from the EU but much EU-derived domestic legislation continues to have effect in domestic law. Relevant legislation is included in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Population and human health – relevant legislation**

Scale	Description of legislation
National	<p><b>Common Registration Act 1965</b></p> <p>The Commons Registration Act 1965 created a system for the registration and protection of common land and town and village greens. The assessment has considered the potential impacts of the Project on such areas and their users.</p>

Scale	Description of legislation
	<p><b>Control of Pollution Act 1974</b></p> <p>Section 61 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 sets out procedures for those undertaking works to obtain 'Prior Consent' for construction works within agreed noise limits.</p> <p>Applications for such consent are made to the relevant local authority and contain a method statement of the works and the steps to be taken to minimise noise. Under Section 60 of the Act, the local authority has powers to attach conditions to, limit or qualify any consent to allow for changes and limit the duration of any consents.</p>
	<p><b>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</b></p> <p>The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is the principal legislation governing the registration and protection of public footpaths, bridleway and byways, and provides measures to improve public access to the open countryside and common land.</p> <p>The potential effects of the Project on walkers, cyclists, and horse riders (WCHs) travelling on these routes have been considered as part of the assessment in Chapter 13 of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.1).</p>
	<p><b>Commons Act 2006</b></p> <p>The Act protects common land and town or village greens. This includes reinforcing existing protections against abuse, encroachment, and unauthorised development. It recognises that the protection of common land must be proportionate to the harm caused and that some specified works can be carried out without the need for consent. The Act allows for the release of land so long as suitable replacement land is provided.</p>
	<p><b>Planning Act 2008</b></p> <p>The Planning Act 2008 sets out, among other matters, the Development Consent Order process and land acquisition procedures for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. The Project would require the acquisition of areas of registered common land and other open space as defined under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Such land is defined as Special Category Land.</p> <p>The compulsory purchase of land is covered in sections 122 to 134 of the Planning Act 2008, of which sections 131 and 132 are relevant to compulsory acquisition of Special Category Land.</p> <p>Section 131 refers to the application of compulsory purchase powers with respect to the permanent acquisition of open space land. Section 131(3) of the Planning Act 2008 states that the compulsory acquisition of land will be subject to the special parliamentary procedure unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that one of subsections (4) to (5) applies. Subsections (4)(a) and (4)(b) apply to the Project in that replacement land is to be offered in exchange and this replacement land will be vested with the same rights, trust and incidents as applies to the Order land.</p> <p>Section 132 relates to the acquisition of rights over land and follows the same approach as section 131. Subsection (4)(a) and (4)(b) equally apply to the Project in that replacement land is to be offered in exchange and this replacement land will be vested with the same rights, trust and incidents as applies to the Order land.</p>

Scale	Description of legislation
	<p>For the purposes of sections 131 and 132 of the Planning Act 2008, open space is defined as having the same meaning as section 19 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981, namely <i>‘any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purposes of public recreation, or land being a disused burial ground’</i>.</p> <p>In relation to replacement land, the Planning Act 2008 defines this as <i>‘land which is not less in area than the order land and which is no less advantageous to the persons, if any, entitled to rights of common or other rights, and to the public’</i>.</p> <p>These matters are referred to more fully in the Statement of Reasons (Application Document 4.1) and the Planning Statement (Application Document 7.2).</p> <p><b>Localism Act 2011</b></p> <p>The Localism Act 2011 sets out a series of measures with the potential to achieve a substantial shift in power, away from central government towards local communities. Effects on local communities resulting from the Project have been identified and evaluated as part of this assessment.</p> <p><b>Health and Social Care Act 2012</b></p> <p>This legislation places a duty of care to protect and improve public health on the Secretary of State for Health as well as other bodies directed by the Secretary of States such as local authorities, including Directors of Public Health and the NHS. The legislation outlines several key aims, which include an improvement in the quality of services and a reduction in health inequalities.</p>
	<p><b>Environment Act 2021</b></p> <p>The Environment Act has two main functions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To give a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK.</li> <li>2. To bring in measures for improvement of the environment in relation to waste, resource efficiency, air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, and conservation.</li> </ol> <p>The majority of the Act does not make any immediate changes for organisations other than regulators.</p> <p>The Environment Act does not currently present specific legislative requirements relevant to Population and Human Health. Further requirements may be implemented through secondary legislation to be made under this Act in the future, and the Project will respond as required.</p>

## 2 National policy framework

- 2.1.1 National policies are presented in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2, with the Project response to these requirements. Where there is duplication of requirements presented in the various relevant National Policy Statements, these have been combined and a single Project response to the policy issue is provided in the table.
- 2.1.2 Table 2.1 lists the planning policies at a national level, including those in the National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) (Department for Transport, 2014) but does not repeat the same policy requirements that appear in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011a), National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011b) and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011c).
- 2.1.3 Table 3.1 presents regional and local policies that have been considered during the development of the Project and the DCO application.
- 2.1.4 Further detail on policy compliance can be found in the Planning Statement (Application Document 7.2).

**Table 2.1 Population and human health – national policy framework and the Project response**

Reference	Requirement	Project response
<b>National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) (Department for Transport, 2014)</b>		
Section 2	The Government’s vision and strategic objectives for national networks include ‘ <i>supporting a prosperous and competitive economy</i> ’ and specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘<i>Networks with the capacity and connectivity and resilience to support national and local economic activity and facilitate growth and create jobs.</i>’</li> <li>• ‘<i>Networks which join up our communities and effectively link to each other.</i>’</li> </ul>	The assessment has considered existing and proposed land uses near the Project, in addition to communities located near the Project.
Paragraph 2.2	States that ‘ <i>there is a critical need to improve the national networks to address road congestion and crowding on the railways to provide safe, expeditious and resilient networks that better support social and economic activity; and to provide a transport network that is capable of stimulating and supporting economic growth. Improvements may also be required to address the impact of the national networks on quality of life and environmental factors.</i> ’	Impacts of the Project on economic growth and activity are described in the Need for the Project (Application Document 7.1) and Appendix D: Economic Appraisal Package of the Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report (Application Document 7.7). Measures to address the impacts of the Project on quality of life and environmental factors are set out in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).



Reference	Requirement	Project response
Paragraph 3.3	<p><i>'In delivering new schemes, the Government expects applicants to avoid and mitigate environmental and social impacts in line with the principles set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and the Government's planning guidance. Applicants should provide evidence that they have considered reasonable opportunities to deliver environmental and social benefits as part of schemes.'</i></p>	<p>Potential environmental and social impacts of the Project have been identified and appropriate mitigation measures developed. Mitigation measures are described further in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1) and in other relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.1) specifically Chapter 5: Air Quality, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual, Chapter 10: Geology and Soils and Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration.</p> <p>Opportunities to deliver environmental and social benefits as part of the Project have been considered and included as embedded mitigation (described further in paragraph 13.5.15 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1)).</p>
Paragraph 3.17	<p>Applicants should use <i>'reasonable endeavours to address the needs of cyclists and pedestrians in the design of new schemes'</i>.</p> <p>Applicants are expected to <i>'identify opportunities to invest in infrastructure in locations where the national road network severs communities and acts as a barrier to cycling and walking'</i>.</p>	<p>The Project has considered the needs of walkers and cyclists in the design and has identified where opportunities to improve or enhance facilities for these users can be taken. Part E of the Project Design Report (Application Document 7.4) sets out design requirements for WCH.</p> <p>The needs of WCH have been considered during both construction and operational phases and appropriate mitigation measures identified. Paragraph 13.5.14 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1) outlines the provision for WCH, which are designed to improve access to the existing network and improve access for users (including those with limited mobility).</p>
Paragraph 3.20	<p>Applicants are expected to <i>'improve access, wherever possible, on and around the national networks by designing and delivering schemes that take account of the accessibility requirements of all those who use, or are affected by, national networks infrastructure, including</i></p>	<p>The Project has sought to improve accessibility within and between communities, providing opportunities for people to connect with jobs, services and community facilities.</p> <p>Paragraph 13.5.14 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1) outlines the provision of new and improved routes for WCH, which are designed to improve accessibility to the existing network.</p>

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<p><i>disabled users. All reasonable opportunities to deliver improvements in accessibility on and to the existing national road network should also be taken wherever appropriate.'</i></p>	
<p>Paragraphs 4.80, 4.81 and 4.82</p>	<p>The NPSNN sets out requirements in relation to the impacts of projects on health, particularly in relation to new or enhanced network infrastructure that may have indirect health impacts, <i>'for example if they affect access to key public services, local transport, opportunities for cycling and walking or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity'</i>. The environmental statement should <i>'identify and set out the assessment of any likely significant adverse health impacts'</i>.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.82 states that <i>'The applicant should identify measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for adverse health impacts as appropriate. These impacts may affect people simultaneously, so the applicant, and the Secretary of State (in determining an application for development consent) should consider the cumulative impact on health'</i>.</p>	<p>A stand-alone Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) (Application Document 7.10) has been prepared for the Project, the key findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).</p> <p>Health impacts have been assessed for both the construction and operational phases of the Project, including impacts on accessibility, local transport, opportunities for cycling and walking and the use of open space for recreation and physical activity. The assessment is summarised in Table 13.72 (construction) and Table 13.77 (operation) of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Mitigation measures relating to human health are described in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 and in other relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement, including Chapter 5: Air Quality, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual, Chapter 10: Geology and Soils and Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration (Application Document 6.1).</p> <p>Cumulative impacts are considered in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects Assessment (Application Document 6.1) and within the HEqIA (Application Document 7.10).</p>

Reference	Requirement	Project response
Paragraph 5.83	<i>‘For nationally significant infrastructure projects of the type covered by this NPS, some impact on amenity for local communities is likely to be unavoidable. Impacts should be kept to a minimum and should be at a level that is acceptable.’</i>	The Project has sought to reduce impacts on amenity for local communities. Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1) outlines mitigation measures which would reduce impacts on amenity.
Paragraph 5.89	<i>‘The Secretary of State should ensure the applicant has provided sufficient information to show that any necessary mitigation will be put into place. In particular, the Secretary of State should consider whether to require the applicant to abide by a scheme of management and mitigation concerning emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke, artificial light from the developments to reduce any loss to amenity which might arise during the construction and operation of the development. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation.’</i>	Mitigation for relevant environmental effects in relation to population and human health have been identified in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Mitigation for impacts on residential amenity (for example from noise, air quality or visual impacts) are described within relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement (Application Document 6.1) including Chapter 5: Air Quality, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual and Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration. Information is also provided in the Code of Construction Practice (CoCP) (Appendix 2.2 of Application Document 6.3).
Paragraph 5.162	<i>‘Access to high quality open spaces and the countryside and opportunities for sport and recreation can be a means of providing necessary mitigation and/or compensation requirements. Green infrastructure can also</i>	Existing areas of open space used for formal or informal recreation near the Project are identified on Figure 13.1 (Application Document 6.2), and the effects on this land have been considered as part of the assessment during construction (paragraphs 13.6.24 to 13.6.42 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1)) and operation (paragraphs 13.6.134 to 13.6.139 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1)). Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 outlines embedded mitigation measures, which include replacement land.

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<i>enable developments to provide positive environmental and economic benefits.'</i>	
Paragraph 5.165	<i>'The applicant should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing.'</i>	Existing and proposed land uses located near the Project are identified within Section 13.4 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Effects on existing developments and land uses are described in Section 13.6 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1) in relation to private property and housing; community land and assets; development land and businesses; and agricultural land holdings during the construction and operational phases. It should be noted that the effects on agricultural land, as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification system, are covered in Chapter 10: Geology and Soils (Application Document 6.1).
Paragraphs 5.166 and 5.174	<p>Paragraph 5.166 states that <i>'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be developed unless the land is surplus to requirements or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location'</i>.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.174 states that <i>'The Secretary of State should not grant consent for development on existing open space, sports and recreational building and land, including playing fields, unless an assessment has been undertaken either by the local authority or independently, which has shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to</i></p>	The assessment has considered potential effects on existing open space, sports and recreational facilities in line with the tests described in the NPSNN. Where relevant, replacement land would be provided, as described in paragraph 13.5.8 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<p><i>requirements, or the Secretary of State determines that the benefits of the project (including need) outweigh the potential loss of such facilities, taking into account any positive proposals made by the applicant to provide new, improved or compensatory land or facilities.'</i></p>	
<p>Paragraph 5.184</p>	<p><i>'Public rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land (e.g. open access land) are important recreational facilities for walkers, cyclists and equestrians. Applicants are expected to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other public rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way consideration needs to be given to the use, character, attractiveness and convenience of the right of way.'</i></p>	<p>The needs of WCH have been taken into account through the identification and assessment of effects on existing routes and networks.</p> <p>Appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects during both construction and operation are considered in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). A range of opportunities to improve access are outlined in paragraph 13.5.14 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). The assessment of effects on Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) has taken into account factors including use, character, attractiveness and convenience.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.186</p>	<p><i>'Excessive noise can have wide-ranging impacts on the quality of human life and health (e.g. owing to annoyance or sleep disturbance), use and enjoyment of areas of value (such as quiet places) and areas with high</i></p>	<p>ES Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration (Application Document 6.1) describes the assessment of noise impacts during construction and operation phases of the Project, together with appropriate mitigation as necessary.</p> <p>A stand-alone Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) (Application Document 7.10) has been prepared for the Project, the key findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). The HEqIA describes</p>

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<i>landscape quality. The Government’s policy is set out in the Noise Policy Statement for England. It promotes good health and good quality of life through effective noise management.’</i>	health outcomes arising from changes in noise and vibration as they affect sensitive populations along the Project route. Health outcomes described include changes in quality of life and amenity.
<b>Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011a)</b>		
Section 4.13 Health	<p>Paragraph 4.13.1 identifies that <i>‘the production, distribution and use of energy may have negative impacts on some people’s health’.</i></p> <p>Paragraph 4.13.3 states that <i>‘the direct impacts on health may include increased traffic, air or water pollution, dust, odour, hazardous waste and substances, noise, exposure to radiation, and increases in pests.’</i></p>	Health outcomes have been described in the HEqIA (Application Document 7.10) and summarised in Chapter 13: Population and Human Health (Application Document 6.1). This includes direct impacts on health as they arise from construction activity and during the operational phase. The assessments cover topics including accessibility, traffic-related severance, road safety, air quality, noise and vibration, pollution and flood-risk, light pollution and electric and magnetic fields (EMFs).
<b>National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (NPS EN-4) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011b)</b>		
There are no additional requirements for population and human health presented within NPS EN-4 above those set out within the NPS NN described above.		
<b>National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011c)</b>		
Paragraph 2.10.2	Section 2.10 relates to Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) and states that EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health. Paragraph 2.10.2 references relevant guidelines developed by	Appendix D of the HEqIA (Application Document 7.10) sets out information relating to EMFs.



Reference	Requirement	Project response
	the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) to protect health.	
<b>National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2021)</b>		
Paragraph 8	<p>Paragraph 8 states that <i>‘Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways: an economic objective...; a social objective...; and an environmental objective’</i>.</p> <p>With specific reference to achieving social objectives; supporting <i>‘strong, vibrant and healthy communities’, ‘by fostering well designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well being’</i>.</p>	The Project would adhere to sustainability principles in its delivery, including through improvements to the connectivity of communities and associated opportunities for recreation through improvements in the local footpath and cycling network (described in paragraph 13.5.14 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1)).
Paragraph 84	<i>‘Planning policies and decisions should enable: ... b) the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses’</i>	The assessment has considered land under agricultural use, and measures have been incorporated to reduce the magnitude of impacts where feasible.
Paragraph 92	Section 8 of the NPPF relates to providing healthy and safe communities, stating that planning	A stand-alone Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HeqIA) (Application Document 7.10) has been prepared for the Project, the key findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<p>policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• promote social interaction</li> <li>• are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion</li> <li>• enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and wellbeing needs.</li> </ul>	<p>Health impacts have been assessed for both the construction and operational phases of the Project, including impacts on accessibility, local transport, opportunities for cycling and walking and the use of open space for recreation and physical activity. The assessment is summarised in Table 13.72 (construction) and Table 13.77 (operation) of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Mitigation measures relating to human health are described in Section 13.5 of Chapter 13 and in other relevant chapters of the Environmental Statement, including Chapter 5: Air Quality, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual, Chapter 10: Geology and Soils and Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration (Application Document 6.1).</p>
<p>Paragraph 99</p>	<p><i>‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or</i></li> <li><i>b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or</i></li> <li><i>c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly</i></li> </ol>	<p>The assessment has considered potential effects on existing open space, sports and recreational facilities in line with the tests described in the NPSNN (paragraphs 5.166 and 5.174 as referred to previously) which provides more NSIP-specific guidance. Where relevant, replacement land would be provided, as described in paragraph 13.5.8 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).</p>



Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<i>outweigh the loss of the current or former use.'</i>	
Paragraph 100	<i>'Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.'</i>	PRoWs affected by the Project have been identified in Table 13.25 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). An assessment of effects is provided in Table 13.68 and Table 13.70 (construction) and Table 13.75 and Table 13.76 (operation) of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Opportunities to enhance PRoW provision are outlined in paragraph 13.514 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).

**Table 2.2 Other national strategies relevant to Population and Human Health**

Reference	Requirement	Project response
<b>National Highways Delivery Plan 2020-2025 (Highways England, 2020)</b>		
<p>Key Performance Indicators:</p> <p>Outcome: Improving Safety for all</p> <p>Outcome: Delivering Better Environmental Outcomes</p> <p>Outcome: Meeting the Needs of All Users</p>	<p>The National Highways Delivery Plan 2020–2025 sets out a number of Key Performance Indicators, including the number of people killed or seriously injured on the strategic road network; delivery of better environmental outcomes including noise and air quality; and meeting the needs of all users of the strategic road network (including WCH).</p>	<p>A stand-alone Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HeqIA) (Application Document 7.10) has been prepared for the Project, the key findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Health impacts have been assessed for both the construction and operational phases of the Project, including impacts on road safety.</p> <p>WCH routes that would be affected by the Project have been identified in Table 13.25 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). An assessment of effects is provided in Table 13.68 and Table 13.70 (construction) and Table 13.75 and Table 13.76 (operation) of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Opportunities to enhance PRow provision are outlined in paragraph 13.5.14 of Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).</p>
<p>Key performance indicators, performance indicators and descriptive commitments</p>	<p>The plan sets out National Highways’ commitments for improving integration and accessibility through the network, including the commitment to work with local communities, to listen to local people to identify how to improve the physical or environmental quality of place, or the economic or social wellbeing of a community.</p>	<p>Extensive engagement has taken place as part of the Project development, including both statutory and non-statutory consultation. Feedback from local communities in relation to the Project has been fed back to design teams as appropriate (‘You Said, We Did’ documents were prepared as part of the Community Impacts Consultation in 2021 and Local Refinement Consultation in 2022). Further</p>

Reference	Requirement	Project response
		detail relating to consultation can be found in the Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1). The HEqIA (Application Document 7.10) includes summaries of key issues raised by local communities and other stakeholders in relation to individual assessment topics.
<b>Public Health England (PHE) Strategy 2020-25 (Public Health England, 2019)</b>		
About Public Health England	Public Health England’s purpose is to protect and improve the nation’s health and reduce health inequalities. PHE aims to keep people safe, prevent poor health, narrow the health gap and support a strong economy.	A stand-alone Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HeqIA) (Application Document 7.10) has been prepared for the Project, the key findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1). Health impacts have been assessed for both the construction and operational phases of the Project, including impacts on a range of health topics and referencing the importance of reducing health inequalities.
Our Priorities (page 21)	The PHE Strategy 2020-25 lays out PHE’s priorities over the next five years and outlines 10 priorities, including working towards cleaner air in England.	A detailed assessment of the impacts of the Project in relation to air quality can be found in ES Chapter 5: Air Quality (Application Document 6.1). The HEqIA (Application Document 7.10) includes an assessment of the health outcome associated with air quality effects during both the construction and operational phase, the findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).
Creating healthy communities (page 11)	Relevant opportunities for creating healthy communities and air quality priorities contained within the strategy have been reviewed and	A detailed assessment of the impacts of the Project in relation to air quality can be found in

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	considered as part of the assessment of effects on human health.	ES Chapter 5: Air Quality (Application Document 6.1). The HEqIA (Application Document 7.10) includes an assessment of the health outcome associated with air quality effects during both the construction and operational phase, the findings from which have been incorporated into Chapter 13 (Application Document 6.1).

### 3 Local policy framework of relevance to population and human health

3.1.1 Table 3.1 includes extracts of relevant planning policy from each local authority within the Project study area. Consideration of how policies have influenced or are affected by the Project is set out in the Planning Statement (Application Document 7.2).

**Table 3.1 Population and human health – local policies**

Strategy/plan	Policy
Local Transport Plan 4: Delivering Growth without Gridlock 2016-2031 (Kent County Council, 2016)	Strategic Priority: Provision of a new Lower Thames Crossing to the east of Gravesend Outcome 1: Economic growth and minimised congestion – Deliver resilient transport infrastructure and schemes that reduce congestion and improve journey time reliability to enable economic growth and appropriate development, meeting demand from a growing population. Outcome 2: Affordable and accessible door-to-door journeys – Promote affordable, accessible and connected transport to enable access for all to jobs, education, health and other services. Outcome 3: Safer Travel – Provide a safer road, footway and cycleway network to reduce the likelihood of casualties and encourage other transport providers to improve safety on their networks. Outcome 5: Better health and wellbeing – Provide and promote active travel choices for all members of the community to encourage good health and wellbeing and implement measures to improve local air quality.
Essex Transport Strategy: The Local Transport Plan for Essex (Essex County Council, 2011)	Priorities for strategic roads in Essex – Lower Thames Crossing Policy 5: Connectivity – Transport networks will be strengthened to support a vibrant, successful and sustainable future for Essex. Policy 10: Road Safety – The County Council will work to reduce the incidence and severity of road traffic collisions on roads in Essex. Policy 14: Cycling – The County Council will encourage cycling. Policy 15: Walking and Public Rights of Way – The County Council will promote walking and use of the PRow network. Priority to support a productive agricultural sector Challenge – Enabling Essex residents to access further education, employment and other vital services (including healthcare, hospitals and retail) Challenge – Encouraging and enabling healthier travel and leisure activities
The London Plan (Greater London Authority, 2021)	Policy GG1 Building strong and inclusive communities Policy GG3 Creating a healthy city Policy GG5 Growing a good economy Policy SD1 Opportunity areas

Strategy/plan	Policy
	<p>Policy SD3 Growth locations in the wider South East and beyond</p> <p>Policy G1 Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy G4 Open Space</p> <p>Policy G6 Biodiversity and access to nature</p> <p>Policy SI1 Improving air quality</p>
<p>Maidstone Borough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Maidstone Borough Council, October 2017)</p>	<p>Policy SS1 Maidstone Borough-wide Spatial Strategy</p> <p>Policy SP17 The Countryside</p> <p>Policy SP23 Sustainable Transport</p> <p>Policy DM3 Natural Environment</p> <p>Policy DM6 Air Quality</p> <p>Policy DM19 Publicly Accessible Open Space and Recreation</p>
<p>Tonbridge and Malling Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, September 2007)</p>	<p>Policy CP1 Sustainable Development</p> <p>Policy CP7 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty</p> <p>Policy CP24 Achieving a High Quality Environment</p> <p>Policy CP25 Mitigation of Development Impacts</p> <p>Policy CP26 Safeguarding of Community Services and Transport</p>
<p>Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy (Gravesham Borough Council, 2014)</p>	<p>Policy CS04: Gravesend Riverside East and North-East Gravesend Opportunity Area</p> <p>Policy CS10: Physical and Social Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy CS12: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy CS13: Green Space, Sport and Recreation</p> <p>Spatial Vision: In Gravesham, opportunities to improve health and accessibility will have been seized by the provision of better facilities for recreation, sport, walking and cycling.</p>
<p>Core Strategy and Policies for Management of Development (Thurrock Council, 2015)</p>	<p>Policy CSSP4: Sustainable Green Belt</p> <p>Policy CSSP5: Sustainable Greengrid</p> <p>Policy CSTP3: Gypsies and Travellers</p> <p>Policy CSTP9: Well-being: Leisure and Sports</p> <p>Policy CSTP10: Community Facilities</p> <p>Policy CSTP11: Health Provision</p> <p>Policy CSTP15: Transport in Greater Thurrock</p> <p>Policy CSTP16: National and Regional Transport Networks</p> <p>Policy CSTP18: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Policy CSTP20: Open Space</p> <p>Policy CSTP21: Productive Land</p> <p>PMD1: Minimising Pollution and Impacts on Amenity</p> <p>PMD5: Open Spaces, Outdoor Sports and Recreational Facilities</p>
<p>Havering Local Plan 2016-2031 (London Borough of Havering, 2021)</p>	<p>Policy 12: Healthy Communities</p> <p>Policy 18: Open Space, Sports and Recreation</p> <p>Policy 22: Skills and Training</p> <p>Policy 23: Transport Connections</p> <p>Policy 29: Green Infrastructure</p>

Strategy/plan	Policy
	Policy 33: Air Quality Policy 34: Managing Pollution
Brentwood Local Plan 2016-2033 (Brentwood Borough Council, 2022)	Policy BE09: Sustainable Means of Travel and Walkable Streets Policy BE10: Sustainable Passenger Transport Policy BE12: Mitigating the Transport Impacts of Development Policy BE14: Creating Successful Places Policy NE02: Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy NE04: Thames Chase Community Forest Policy NE08: Air Quality Policy NE10: Contaminated Land and Hazardous Substances Policy NE11: Floodlighting and Illumination Policy E11: Brentwood Enterprise Park
Medway Local Plan (Medway Council, 2003)	Policy BNE1: General Principles for Built Environment Policy L10: Public Rights of Way Policy T18: New Transport Infrastructure Policy T19: Road Schemes Policy CF1: Community Facilities Policy CF3: Sites for Local Healthcare Facilities Policy CF4: Primary Healthcare Facilities
Dartford Core Strategy (Dartford Borough Council, 2011)	Policy CS13: Green Belt Policy CS16: Transport Investment Policy CS21: Community Services Policy CS22: Sports, Recreation and Culture Facilities

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