From:

Lower Thames Crossing

Subject: Lower Thames Crossing project. TR010032

Date: 09 November 2022 17:57:23

Attachments: 221101 - Lower Thames Crossing - Adequacy of Consultation Request.pdf

Dear Eleanor

I refer to your letter of 1st November regarding the adequacy of consultation on the above project.

Please retain my contact details for this project. If the application is accepted for examination, we will provide a reference number for all correspondence.

I can confirm that whilst this authority lies outside the formal order limits, we have received several invitations to presentations on the project and status updates and are content that from our perspective there has been adequate consultation to-date.

We would ask that we are retained on any consultation list and that in particular, Maidstone BC would have an interest in further evidence relating to the fact that both the M2 and M20 pass through the Borough, limked by both the A229 and A249:

- Traffic flows and highway impacts through the M2 / M20 corridors and their associated interaction with the relevant LRN within and adjoining the Borough's boundaries, in particular the A229 and A249 and other projects outlined within LTP4.
- Any highway capacity mitigation measures that may be required outside the order limits insofar as they may affect the SRN/LRN within and adjoining the Borough.
- Any assessment of both direct and cumulative environmental impacts arising from the above, in particular, but not limited to, air quality (much of the M20 corridor adjacent to the County Town is an AQMA) insofar as they may affect:
 - Impacts upon the North Downs Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is contained by the M2, A249 and M20 network and therefore potentially affected by changes in flows on each route.
 - SSSI within the proximity of the SRN, including; Allington Quarry (SSSI) and Wouldham to Detling Escarpment (SSSI).
 - Areas of ancient woodland
 - Local Wildlife Sites / Reserves
 - Populated areas within the Borough at all levels of the settlement hierarchy, including proposed Garden Community areas promoted within the current LPR, which lie adjacent to both the M2 and M20.
 - Kent Downs AONB and the Len Valley LLV
- Socio-economic impacts, particularly having regard to deprivation indices.

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