

## **LTC Programming Meeting\_16\_May\_2023\_PT3**

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FULL TRANSCRIPT (with timecode)

00:00:03:00 - 00:00:26:12

Welcome back, everybody. My name is Ryan Smith. The panel lead for the examination of the proposed Lower Thames Crossing. This is the programming meeting, and we are resuming after a lunch break at the end of agenda item four. Before I introduce my colleagues again, can I just check with the case team that can be heard and that the meeting recording and live stream for this afternoon session have started?

00:00:29:23 - 00:00:31:07

Yes, that's all fine, Mr. Smith.

00:00:31:29 - 00:00:39:22

Thank you very much, Mr. Church. In which case, I will now reintroduce my panel member colleagues. I'll start with Miss Janine Laver.

00:00:40:28 - 00:00:47:05

Hello, everybody. Good afternoon. Janine Leyva, panel member. I will hand you over to my colleague, Ken Taylor.

00:00:48:24 - 00:00:55:00

Get us every one. So I'm Kent Taylor. I am one of the panel members. And I'll now hand you over to Mr. Ken Pratt.

00:00:55:25 - 00:01:05:03

Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Ken Pratt. I'm a panel member, and I'll pass. I'll pass you across to Mr. Young.

00:01:06:06 - 00:01:08:10

Prominent young panel member. Good afternoon.

00:01:09:12 - 00:01:49:20

Thank you very much, Mr. Young. Now, just before we move on to agenda item five. Before the lunch break, we heard submissions largely dealing with agenda item four. And I did indicate at that point that if significant issues were raised by anyone interested party that might affect the positions that were taken by other parties that I would return to the room and seek views. Now I'm conscious here that we heard from most of the local authorities before we heard from Thurrock Council and that Thurrock Council's in principle position was that they would still seek a delay to deadline one of the examination until early September of 2023.

00:01:50:01 - 00:02:21:08

Now we have obviously heard the applicant on that point because they spoke after Thurrock, but we haven't heard from the other local authorities. So of completeness, just before we end agenda item four, I wish to just go around the room and see if there was anything that Gravesham, Maidstone, Essex County, Kent County, London borough of Havering particularly, or any of the other interested

parties who spoke before Thurrock wish to say in observation on that principal point that Thurrock raised.

00:02:21:16 - 00:02:26:10

Can I just see any show of hands, if anybody wishes to say anything further on that?

00:02:28:27 - 00:02:31:13

Okay. I am seeing.

00:02:34:13 - 00:02:37:08

Wendy Lane from Gravesham.

00:02:38:26 - 00:02:39:11

Miss Lane.

00:02:40:27 - 00:03:14:15

Thank you. Um mean will cover this in more detail in your next agenda item. Um, but we have cut our cloth accordingly to the kind of timetable that we were anticipating. As I say, this is not our first. We have worked to create a timetable in advance of your one. So we understood our resourcing. Um, we are currently in a slight hiatus with our local plan because we are having to spend a lot of money doing additional transport modeling for our local plan as required by national highways.

00:03:14:17 - 00:03:50:10

National highways will not allow us to get to Regulation 19 without that additional transport modelling to be done. We are anticipating progressing our local plan intensively later on this year as a result of that modelling being produced. So whilst we are not um, saying definitively we would be uncomfortable if you were supportive of the request from Thurrock. We haven't planned on that basis. Um, we have only got the internal resources that we've got and those external consultants that we've employed.

00:03:50:12 - 00:04:02:19

We aren't employing reams of consultants to assist and put in extra resources because there was no certainty of funding for that. So it's a it's a matter of concern if the timetable fundamentally changes.

00:04:04:05 - 00:04:20:03

The point is made. We will certainly put that into the pot and consider it alongside all of the other submissions. Thank you very much. Now, again, any other local authorities wishing to speak on that point? Can I just check the room and see if any hands arise or any cameras? Come on.

00:04:27:17 - 00:04:38:25

I see no further hands. On that basis, I will return very briefly to the applicant. Are there any observations that the applicant wishes to make on that? Interjection from Gravesham.

00:04:43:03 - 00:04:50:25

And I see no hands, in which case we will. Ah. I do now, Mr. Tate, for the applicant.

00:04:54:14 - 00:04:57:05

And I'm afraid your microphone is muted, Mr. Tate.

00:04:57:11 - 00:05:02:02

No, thank you, sir. Andrew Tate for the applicant. No, thank you, sir.

00:05:02:28 - 00:05:08:27

Thank you very much, Mr. Tate. We will move on. I will. No, no, just.

00:05:10:11 - 00:05:12:13

Uh, no, we've got no further comment.

00:05:14:03 - 00:05:14:18

Oh.

00:05:15:22 - 00:05:30:27

Excellent. We think we got there in the end. We will move on. Thank you very much. In which case we move on now to agenda item five. And at this point, I transfer lead role in this meeting to my colleague, Mr. Dominic Young.

00:05:35:02 - 00:06:11:26

Thank you, Mr. Smith. But before we go on to discuss the timetabling arrangements for the preparation and submission of local impact reports, I want to say a few quick words about the role and importance of the documents which will be familiar to most of you as part of the 202,008 Planning Act. Relevant local authorities will be invited to submit a local impact report giving details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the Authority's area. In coming to a decision the Secretary of State must have regard to the documents provided they were submitted by the required deadline.

00:06:13:03 - 00:06:43:12

The examining authority would therefore strongly encourage local authorities to produce a local impact report when invited to do so. We are happy to discuss when that deadline might be. In the interest of fairness, having regards to a balance between our need for timely information and examination, that must finish within six months and local authority resources preparing and approving a potentially substantial report. You will have seen that our draft timetable proposes a deadline for.

00:06:43:22 - 00:06:44:11

Local impact.

00:06:44:13 - 00:06:46:18

Reports at deadline one.

00:06:46:20 - 00:06:47:22

That being the.

00:06:47:24 - 00:06:49:27

18th of July 2023.

00:06:51:22 - 00:07:25:24

It worth making a point that because there are a number of local authorities here, we will be seeking procedural fairness and clarity around the submission of local impact reports, which means that in principle we do not think it would be appropriate to have different submission deadlines for different authorities. And that is enough for me and I appreciate that Most of you have already set out your position at length this morning in relation to the overall timetable, but this is the opportunity for people to raise specific points in relation to local impact reports.

00:07:26:04 - 00:07:26:19

Um.

00:07:28:09 - 00:07:36:12

So with no further delay, I'll see who wants to speak on on this. Do we have anybody?

00:07:42:17 - 00:07:44:05

Right. Okay. Got.

00:07:44:14 - 00:07:48:03

Um. Yeah. Miss Lane should let you.

00:07:49:04 - 00:07:52:15

Go first because yours was the first hand I saw. Go up.

00:07:53:14 - 00:08:25:25

Thank you very much. Wendy Lane, the assistant director for Planning from Gravesham. As I alluded to a minute ago, um, we obviously are familiar with the process. Um, as soon as the documents were made available and we do appreciate that the Lower Thames Crossing did make the documents available on submission, which is unusual. Um, normally they are not made available until after a decision has been made on adequacy. So we had a little bit more time. Um, we are using minimal external consultants.

00:08:26:02 - 00:09:07:18

We have Bureau Veritas in place. Um, that's essential because we did find it hard to get sufficient information on noise and vibration and also air quality through the consultation, through the pre-application process. And so we have needed consultants to facilitate that. We are intending to obviously work on those areas as a two tier authority where we are primarily in control. Um, there are areas where we would clearly be collaborating with Kent County Council. We have a um, shared ecological advice service, so we will be very much working on the kind of biodiversity side with them and deferring to his, um, natural England in a similar way.

00:09:07:29 - 00:09:40:19

Um, we also have um, say, ecology and archaeology, which is common. Um, we will be deferring to the county on some highways matters, although there are areas that we don't entirely agree. So think very much. Our line is we are a council whose fundamental corporate plan is sound financial management. We have cut our cloth accordingly. We cannot overspend. We recognise that we needed to do a lot in-house and we have already started the moment those documents were available.

00:09:40:21 - 00:10:13:28

We have highlighted what what components we feel we need to do for the Lear. Um, and obviously equally we have highlighted components that we are going to do for the written reps. Um. It isn't therefore helpful. Obviously, when documents are changing, new material is coming out. It is making the process more complicated and it's also making it not very transparent. But our focus has been, as I say, working from the date that the documents were available to a deadline that actually is slightly further back than we initially anticipated because we use the standard framework.

00:10:14:00 - 00:10:18:07

And when we thought you would need the lawyer, obviously happy to take any questions.

00:10:20:06 - 00:10:21:19

Thank you. I'm grateful for that.

00:10:23:11 - 00:10:27:10

Um, let me just move around the room. Um, Mr. Wood, would you.

00:10:29:29 - 00:11:07:09

Thank you, sir. Good afternoon. This is County Council Growth and Development Team. Um. Firstly, I'd just like to recognize your sentiment about the being a as you said, it was a substantial report, and having just been in the process of going through on the highways and transportation scheme, I concur with that and made reference this morning to the fact that Essex has a number of concepts, two of which have been submitted almost at the same time. So we are we are actually facing with having to do two completely separate and two completely separate schemes at two different parts of the county.

00:11:07:17 - 00:11:25:12

It makes it difficult for us. Yes, we can we can submit a local impact report by the by the deadline. But but to me, the issue here is the quality of it, the content of it, to be able to advise yourselves as the examining authority as to what the true impacts of.

00:11:28:26 - 00:11:31:06

Nothing on this site other than that. Thank you.

00:11:34:06 - 00:11:36:22

Um. Douglas.

00:11:39:20 - 00:12:15:21

Good afternoon, sir. Thank you. In terms of the local impact report preparation for Havering. Um, just wanted to confirm, as said under item four earlier, we we do have a technical team in place, um, that will contribute to various elements of the local impact report that will be preparing, um, from various kind of technical disciplines. Um, it will be a, a substantial document as, as has already been iterated by my others.

00:12:15:26 - 00:12:51:21

But we have, um, or we are rather at the very early stages of, of pulling that together. Um, following, you know, reviewing the, the, the guidance note on, on local impact report preparation on the, on the, on the planning inspectorate websites. Um, should also add that um, we're we're doing some work with transport for London who um, have some responsibilities within Havering as a local highway authority for some of our roads.

00:12:51:25 - 00:13:33:05

Um, so we are doing some joint work with them on some technical elements that will inform our local impact report. And then that work is, is ongoing and we'll be looking to integrate our findings from, from those into the, into the draft report ahead of um ahead of the the submission um on the 18th of July. Um, I think the other thing that um, I'll, I'll raise and um, in, in Havering submission, it was raised under item six and you may feel, sir, that it's not appropriate for, for this programme in meeting that it's more for the preliminary meeting.

00:13:33:07 - 00:14:05:01

But I did want to just point out or um, make the panel aware that the local impact report is proposed as it currently stands for submission at Deadline one, which is um, after, um, the first two issue specific hearings, the first one of the project definition and the second one on the draft development consent order. Um, and whilst Havering does have, as I said earlier, a delegated approval process in place for the various deadlines, including the local impact reports.

00:14:05:16 - 00:14:31:07

Um, being able to take into account, um, the outcomes of those issues, specific hearings plus the first open floor hearing into the local impact report and then going through that delegated approval process may be, may be challenging. So, um, just invite the, the panel to, to consider whether there needs to be an alteration in the in in those those three deadlines. Thank you.

00:14:33:03 - 00:14:41:17

Thank you very much. Okay. Let me move on to Mr. Mr. Edwards. We'll go to you next.

00:14:45:01 - 00:15:16:19

Yes, sir. Thank you very much. Intend to be very brief. It is simply just to make clear, sir, that so far as items two and three within item five are concerned on the agenda, the submissions that we made this morning in respect of item four and the request to defer the date for submission of the local impact report to early September plainly apply in the same way to item five, so don't propose to repeat any part of the submissions you've already heard on behalf of Thurrock Council.

00:15:16:21 - 00:15:21:12

And so unless there are any particular questions you have focused on the local impact report issue.

00:15:21:24 - 00:15:31:18

Well, a question I would have I suppose, is that, um, without any prejudice to the decision that the panel may or may not.

00:15:31:20 - 00:15:33:23

Make, um, regarding.

00:15:33:25 - 00:15:34:10

Your.

00:15:34:12 - 00:15:37:09

Request that you made under item four.

00:15:37:19 - 00:15:43:21

What would be your position? Is there any accommodation that could be made specifically in.

00:15:43:24 - 00:15:45:15

Relation to local impact reports.

00:15:45:17 - 00:15:47:08

Within that timetable.

00:15:47:10 - 00:15:50:04

That would alleviate some pressures on you?

00:15:51:28 - 00:16:29:25

So I'm going to ask Mr. Stratford to speak if necessary in a moment. So but you've heard what's thorough counsel have put in place in terms of arrangements to re-engage the professional team. The professional consultant team are required as a whole to input in to the local impact report and the timetable that we have requested in terms of postponement of the date for submission of the local impact report reflects what we anticipate is going to be necessary in order for the entirety of the consultant team to feed into the finished document.

00:16:29:27 - 00:17:03:04

So don't understand that we recognise any scope for as it we're breaking up the local impact report into sections so that parts that deal with particular areas of concern to Southern are too thorough can be expedited and brought forward earlier. So in answer to your question, so at the moment we don't see any scope, as it were, for any alternative approach other than the one that we have requested in terms of postponing the date for submission of the local impact report to September.

00:17:05:14 - 00:17:05:29

Okay.

00:17:06:01 - 00:17:07:13

So my colleague has anything.

00:17:07:14 - 00:17:08:02

Else to add to that?

00:17:08:04 - 00:17:47:07

Yes. If I could probably reiterate, suppose what I said earlier, the council having only started work in the middle of April and not fully until now or very soon, we are only faced with less than two months to review 55,000 pages, deal with a minor refinement consultation, engage with seven half day workshops with national highways, continue to negotiate over the statement of Common Ground, which we've only yesterday received a revised version

00:17:49:00 - 00:18:22:09

some months after we discussed additions to it. So even if something could be produced, if could reiterate what we just said at Essex, the quality of what we can produce in 6 to 8 weeks is going to be not adequate and it may therefore miss or under-represented key issues that your examining authority ought to be aware of.

00:18:22:20 - 00:18:27:18

And therefore, going forward, you haven't had a full

00:18:29:23 - 00:18:45:00

representation from an authority that covers 70% of the route and quite a large amount of the of the impacts. And and it concerns us greatly that we're be prejudiced as a result.

00:18:45:02 - 00:18:50:28

I think that point has been made. Don't think it needs to be it doesn't need to be made again. I'm particularly trying.

00:18:51:00 - 00:18:58:04

To get to the point if if the panel were to be able to look at putting back the submission date.

00:18:58:12 - 00:18:59:18

Of the local impact.

00:18:59:20 - 00:19:00:11

Report.

00:19:01:00 - 00:19:04:10

Would that be of some assistance? But I've.

00:19:05:04 - 00:19:08:16

But you're saying not is that your position is.

00:19:08:27 - 00:19:30:20

To some assistance? Of course it would. However, if if if the if the end date for the examination stays the same, then what you've got is a concertina aid period in which all the hearings and questions have to be held and that that, you know, it's of some help, but not all the help that we're looking for.

00:19:35:13 - 00:19:36:21  
Okay. Thank you. Um.

00:19:39:05 - 00:19:42:17  
Why would you want to make any further comments.

00:19:43:20 - 00:19:46:12  
From me, sir? Unless I can help you in any way?

00:19:46:18 - 00:19:50:09  
No, I'm grateful. Let me just go then to Mr. Tate.

00:19:51:03 - 00:19:53:28  
Um, let's see what Mr. Tate has to say.

00:20:00:00 - 00:20:13:21  
If I can just interject briefly. Think we still had Kent County Council awaiting a primary submission on this point before we hear responses from the applicant. Was did we have a hand up from Nola Cooper.

00:20:15:26 - 00:20:19:04  
Andrew Tate for the applicant? I think.

00:20:22:04 - 00:20:23:18  
Let's hear from Ms.. Cooper.

00:20:24:12 - 00:20:26:06  
Thank you, sir. I'll come back to you, Mr. Tate.

00:20:28:01 - 00:20:58:19  
Thank you. Nola Cooper, principal transport planner at Kent County Council. So the only thing that we would like to raise in addition to the points made earlier, is that we recognize the local impact report is a significant piece of work. So in light of this, we have already commenced work on this submission. However, as we mentioned previously and enhanced with the applicant which covers our costs associated with preparation of this submission would really help to ensure a comprehensive report can be prepared within the required time scales. Thank you.

00:20:59:04 - 00:20:59:19  
Thank you.

00:21:02:21 - 00:21:03:22  
Right, Mr. Tate.

00:21:12:17 - 00:21:16:10  
But largely of context. The first.

00:21:16:27 - 00:21:17:20  
Mr. Tate.

00:21:21:01 - 00:21:21:28  
Can you hear me now?



00:21:22:16 - 00:21:23:07

Thank you, sir.

00:21:23:23 - 00:21:25:14

Andrew Tate for the applicant.

00:21:25:27 - 00:21:40:08

Can I make four points, please, sir? Um, largely of context. The first, uh, we've got. We've got a team looking at it as I speak. Shall I continue, or is it still bad?

00:21:41:20 - 00:21:42:05

Thank you, sir.

00:21:42:19 - 00:22:12:21

Now we're on. The first point to make is that there is already an elongated period that has been we've got a team looking at it as I speak. Shall I continue? Or is it still bad? Usually from acceptance in November. So the first point to make is that but they were delayed till there is already in an elongated period that has been longer than the usual operating. And

00:22:14:22 - 00:22:47:15

usually from acceptance in November the relevant reps would start soon afterwards, but they were delayed till beyond Christmas. The relevant period has been longer than the usual 28 days. It's been 44 days and the preliminary hearing is also delayed compared to the norm. So that's already a generous period of time has passed since the application was accepted.

00:22:47:17 - 00:23:18:06

That's 0.1, 0.2 specifically in relation to Thurrock, and the application was made available shortly after its submission prior to acceptance, as Ms. Lane has indicated. And so you will have seen that the document app 91, which is the statement of engagement, paragraph 6.6.

00:23:18:08 - 00:23:50:07

2AB, 0.6.2, that at the time of submission, there have been 420 meetings with Thurrock and 270 since October 2020. So there's been no shortage of engagement and opportunity to fully understand the position from. But from Thurrock, the third point is that advice note one, of course national infrastructure planning advice.

00:23:50:09 - 00:24:31:20

Note one local impact reports encourages authorities to start preparing their Lear in the pre-application period. And we know, as a matter of fact, that extensive work has been undertaken by Thurrock in November and December following all those meetings in relation to analysing the material. Um, and the fourth point is that the time available before the deadline deadline for the year does seem to us to be a reasonable amount of time to prepare and adequate.

00:24:33:06 - 00:24:39:07

There have been detailed, relevant representations and an extensive

00:24:41:00 - 00:24:56:23

list of of issues that have been prepared and the basis upon which it said it's there are difficulties in preparing and adequate by that date are very generalised by Thurrock.

00:24:59:18 - 00:25:34:15

It's not specified at all, which is why I indicated one needs to be cautious about the assertion that it's not possible. And in answer to your question about whether it's possible to slip the deadline within the program, that hasn't been satisfactorily answered, again, it's put on a very generalized basis. So we would ask you collectively to be skeptical about that is just one of the factors, of course, in reaching our overall decision.

00:25:36:12 - 00:25:41:07

So unless there's anything else I can assist you with. Thank you, Mr. Tate. Those are my points.

00:25:45:15 - 00:25:46:12

And does.

00:25:46:14 - 00:25:47:00

Anybody.

00:25:48:00 - 00:25:54:13

Want to respond to any points that Mr. Tate has made, noting they are similar to what we've what we heard before lunch. Just.

00:25:56:04 - 00:25:57:00

Mr. Edwards?

00:25:58:03 - 00:26:37:24

Yes, sir. In light of what you've just heard on behalf of National Highway, I think it behooves me just to briefly respond to what Mr. Titus said. The way in which national highways have sought to categorize the position that Thurrock Council find themselves in is not, in my submission, appropriate or correct? You've heard the position that Thurrock Council are in. They have had a series of just short of five months where they have simply not been in a position to engage with this process at all and to suggest, as has been put by national highways, that in some way that is a, first of all, a product of its own making.

00:26:38:01 - 00:27:11:22

And secondly, that in any event, in terms of engagement that there has been last year is a substitute and provides mitigation for the time that's been lost over the last five months is simply not realistic. And in my submission, and for the reasons that you've heard already from Thurrock, the submission that's been made on behalf of Network Rail is in some way Thurrock concerned, should be given limited, if any, weight and set aside in the decision that the examining authority has taken as to programming is not appropriate and we would invite you to reject it.

00:27:13:20 - 00:27:14:22

Thank you, Mr. Edwards.

00:27:16:28 - 00:27:18:25

Anybody else? Anybody else want.

00:27:18:27 - 00:27:21:03

To say anything else or anything else more generally.

00:27:21:05 - 00:27:22:19

About local impact reports?

00:27:22:21 - 00:27:25:05

Because I'm going to move back to.

00:27:25:07 - 00:27:28:24

Mr. Smith shortly. Uh, any hands?

00:27:30:21 - 00:27:36:20

Not seeing any hands. So in that case, Mr. Smith, I shall hand back to you.

00:27:39:05 - 00:27:48:01

Thank you very much, Mr. Young. Now we're on agenda item six. Any other matters? And in relation to that? Um.

00:27:50:13 - 00:27:53:17

There are a few general remarks that I'd like to make. Um.

00:27:56:03 - 00:28:32:00

It's important that anybody who is outside the room who has been participating in this event by listening on the live stream. If you have submissions that you need to make, then you need to raise them in writing by procedural deadline be on Friday the 26th of May 2023. And if you do that, we will take your submissions into account. Those who have participated here orally today are also invited to render their oral submissions into their concluding remarks in writing again and by procedural deadline be on Friday the 26th of May.

00:28:32:17 - 00:28:38:17

And I will then also just briefly refer to.

00:28:40:12 - 00:28:57:00

Actions. And I note that we don't have a substantial number of of actions arising from today's process. Merely to remind everybody that we have spoken about the value of.

00:28:58:24 - 00:29:38:27

A joint statement being made between National Highways and Thurrock Council. Around the timing of conclusion and by procedural deadline be. Or indeed earlier than procedural deadline be because we have indicated that if we receive such a statement earlier than procedural deadline be we will exercise discretion and consider its early receipt and publication in these quite exceptional circumstances. But we've also indicated that there's no need to put in such a statement unless it appears likely that the resolution of the PPA is going to be further delayed.

00:29:38:29 - 00:29:51:06

So the reason for putting that statement in is because additional time to settle that important agreement is required. So hopefully that it's.

00:29:52:29 - 00:30:31:29

The first action is reasonably clear and the second action related to an. Statement of common ground between the Emergency Services Steering Group and national highways as national highways characterized this. This is not a case of either or. What we are not requesting here is the discontinuance of individualized statements of common ground with relevant blue light services. But what we would like to provide an opportunity for is the receipt of a statement of common ground from the steering group with between the steering group and national highways as well.

00:30:32:01 - 00:30:54:27

Now that would come into effect at whatever dates the finally resolved timetable resolves that statements of common ground should be provided, so that doesn't have an active date at present. I'm

just flagging that immediately. Are there any more matters that arise that anybody thinks have created actions or that we need to take on board as actions from this meeting?

00:31:00:19 - 00:31:05:09

I certainly see one hand. I see Mr. Edwards for Thurrock.

00:31:06:17 - 00:31:36:29

Um. In fact, it's Mr. Stratford on behalf of the emergency services. Excuse me. I just wanted to come back. Thank you for your statement earlier and confirmation that those shooting progressed. But what what the emergency services were saying in their submission to you is that given that the Essex Police, the Metropolitan Police and the Kent Police are part of the emergency services steering group there.

00:31:38:06 - 00:32:08:11

It's entirely up to you. Of course, there was no need to double up and have just the police without the fire and the ambulance services. And just wanted to reiterate that I have an email from National Highways confirming that they're going to prioritise the separate ones from the police, which is why I made the statements earlier and why the emergency services made this submission to. Um, it doesn't really confirm that they're going to progress hardly at all.

00:32:08:22 - 00:32:19:10

The one with the emergency services steering group. So that's why we said what we did indeed. Well, I can confirm in writing later if you need to, through the emergency services group.

00:32:19:23 - 00:33:05:09

Yes. No. Do I do note I do note those submissions. What essentially we're trying to achieve here is is a circumstance where if an individual member of the group and particularly police, view it as being valuable to continue to provide an individualized statement of common ground between themselves and, um, and national highways, what I don't want to do is to cut that off at the past here and now. Um, however, what I think would also be valuable is that if given, given the work that the group has done, given the existence of the group, if a combined statement can also be achieved, that would be a valuable thing.

00:33:05:11 - 00:33:36:19

There probably needs to be some measure of conversation behind the scenes, I have to say, between the group and national highways to resolve. Finally, the question of who is within the remit of a joint of a joint group statement. And if police are, for example, saying that they are continuing to be involved in singular statements and or alternatively it be agreed that um, everybody is content that there be a single combined group statement.

00:33:38:19 - 00:34:24:01

This may sound as though we're not being particularly specific. Essentially, what we are trying to foster here is a view in which if integration between the blue light and emergency services can be achieved, we can see the very substantial benefit that might flow from that and we would therefore like to encourage that to occur. Equally, however, what we do not want to do is to set up a process where individual police and authorities engaged in preparation works, where work is perhaps already underway, turning around and saying, well, that work has been somehow put to waste as a consequence of what has emerged today, noting that they themselves as individual entities are not in the room.

00:34:24:07 - 00:34:30:10

So can I urge on you then to sort of take this back to the group members?

00:34:31:24 - 00:34:54:00

Absolutely. I'll do that at the first available opportunity. The group is led by the Essex Police with the other two police forces in attendance and very much part of it. My understanding is that they want to do just one collective statement of common ground, but I will speak to them and find out their collective view.

00:34:54:21 - 00:35:23:03

Have have that conversation and maintain. Maintain also a conversation with national highways and national highways. I'll invite them back in on this point, but sure. And, you know, at the end of the day, if we can achieve a single statement that meets our needs and meets the needs of the participants in an integrated fashion, that would be the best outcome. And but a conversation clearly does need to happen outside this room.

00:35:24:26 - 00:35:32:02

On that basis, I'm just going to then return briefly to the applicant. Is there anything further that the applicant wishes to add on that point?

00:35:33:18 - 00:36:09:28

No, sir. I think the position you indicated is the one that we suggested would be sensible. We don't think that your request for statement of common ground with the police should be formally extinguished or otherwise extinguished. We are keen to keep dialogue with as many parties as possible, keep keeping progress up. How it eventually formed, eventually takes is a matter that will emerge. But we don't want to suddenly stop one line and then find, as I indicated, that the slow ship of the convoy is holding back progress on the totality.

00:36:10:00 - 00:36:18:00

Not saying that's going to happen, but we want to avoid that and have as many routes as possible to securing

00:36:20:17 - 00:36:25:25

agreed positions or disagreed positions to assist the examination.

00:36:27:28 - 00:37:03:20

Thank you very much, Mr. Tate. I think we have reached a point of reasonably close agreement and understanding around the table sufficient that the group can go away and resolve what they're going to do and have the necessary conversations with the applicant in order to make that happen. And I'm then just briefly going to refer to the fact that we did have a request to speak on this agenda item from the Thames Crossing Action Group. And I'm conscious of the fact that that was an in principle request made in writing before the beginning of this meeting.

00:37:03:22 - 00:37:21:09

But I did just want to check, given that they were the only entity that specifically asked to raise an item at this place on the agenda. Whether. That is something that has been dealt with in the run of the meeting, so to speak, or can hold over to the preliminary meeting.

00:37:21:26 - 00:37:23:24

We're happy to leave it where it is. Thank you, sir.

00:37:24:10 - 00:37:44:04

Thank you very much. In which case, I don't believe that there is anything else that needs to be dealt with orally Today. I will just pass my eye around the room virtually one more time. If you believe there's something that you need to say that hasn't already been said that is relevant to the agenda, please raise your hand now.

00:37:48:27 - 00:38:16:15

And I see no hands. In which case, that broadly completes our business for today. We will obviously roll up everything that we've heard from you all today into our deliberations that will take place as a consequence of that and as a consequence of the preliminary meeting in due course. And so what I'm now going to do is to invite my panel colleagues briefly back onto screen to say our goodbyes. And I'll start with Miss Janine Laver.

00:38:18:22 - 00:38:24:23

Thank you, Mr. Smith. Thank you, everyone, for your attendance today. It's good bye for me. Mr. Ken Taylor.

00:38:25:15 - 00:38:30:22

Yes. Thank you, everyone. Yeah. So goodbye. Bye bye from me as well. So I'll pass on to Mr. Pratt.

00:38:32:01 - 00:38:35:20

Yes. And thank you very much for your attendance and goodbye from me.

00:38:37:16 - 00:38:38:12

Bye, everybody.

00:38:39:27 - 00:39:10:18

And thank you very much, Mr. Young. Thank you to all of my panel colleagues, and thank you a substantial thank you to all of the case team and audiovisual technicians behind the scenes who've made today happen. Glitches notwithstanding, We got there. And everybody, thank you from me for your attendance. And this programming meeting is now closed. And we will meet again, I'm sure, in some form or other at or around the preliminary meeting.

00:39:10:20 - 00:39:12:17

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.