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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Ask for: Nola Cooper
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Your Reference:
TR010032

KCC Interested Party
Reference Number:
20035779

Date: 13th June 2023

Dear Rynd,

RE: Application by National Highways for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Lower Thames Crossing - Kent County Council's Submission to Procedural Deadline C

As outlined within the Draft Examination Timetable (Annex D of the Rule 6 letter (PD-013), this letter is Kent County Council's (KCC) Procedural Deadline C submission which provides the following:

- Post-event submission, including written submissions of oral comments made at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1 (PM pt1) on the 6th June 2023
- Further written submissions on Examination procedure, including responses to matters raised orally at PM pt1
- Requests to be heard orally at any of the examination hearings notified at Annex E of the Rule 6 letter (PD-013)
- Comments by Interested Parties (IPs) on the Applicant's proposed ASI itinerary (PDB-001) – to be provided within a separate submission to Procedural Deadline C.

Post-event submission, including written submissions of oral comments made at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1

At the Preliminary Meeting on the 6th June 2023, Michael Humphries KC (representing KCC) verbally presented the points outlined within our Procedural Deadline B Submission - Written submissions in advance of the Preliminary Meeting (PDB-026).



Initial Assessment of Principal Issues (Annex B of the Rule 6 Letter (PD-013))

The main points KCC raised regarding the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues was that more clarity is needed on the following issues:

- *Project Definition – The scope of and security for highway development:*

It is unclear what is meant by “*the scope of and security for highway development*”. Clarification is needed as to whether this refers to the possibility that highway improvements outside of the current development boundary should be included within the scope of the LTC development proposals.

- *Traffic and transportation – Operational effects – the effect of LTC on the local road network north and south of the river:*

This issue clearly refers to the operational effect of the LTC on the local road network. However, consideration should also be given to the construction effects on the local road network, and highway mitigation measures for both operational and construction impacts.

In addition to the points raised within our Procedural Deadline B submission, Michael Humphries KC (representing KCC), also raised a number of points orally at the Preliminary Meeting. For the purpose of completeness, these points were as follows:

- It is the government’s intention to designate a new National Networks NPS this year, which would be within the timeframe of the LTC Examination. We would like to draw this to the attention of the Examining Authority as the implications may need to be considered and reported to the Secretary of State when making their decision.
- We would ask that the final Examination timetable allows sufficient time for Interested Parties requests for additional articles and requirements of the draft DCO to be properly considered and debated within the Examination.

Further written submissions on Examination procedure, including responses to matters raised orally at PM pt1

Furthermore, KCC would also like to raise the following new points for consideration by the Examining Authority:

- Firstly, it has recently come to our attention that the proposed date of Open Floor Hearing 3 (OFH3) clashes with KCC’s next Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee meeting. OFH3 is currently scheduled for the 5th July and proposed to be held both virtually, but also in person at the Dartford Bridge Hilton Hotel in Kent. This would mean that any KCC Members that sit on this committee would be unable to attend this OFH on behalf of their constituents. Therefore, if possible KCC would request for OFH3 to be moved to an alternative date.
- Secondly, when issuing the final Examination timetable, it would be helpful if the Examining Authority could clearly set out within each Deadline, whether each bullet point applies to the Applicant, Interested Parties or both. This will assist in ensuring all parties are aware of what is required to be submitted by them at each Examination deadline.



Requests to be heard orally at the Preliminary Meeting Part 1

KCC would like to take this opportunity to request to be heard orally at the following Issue Specific Hearings:

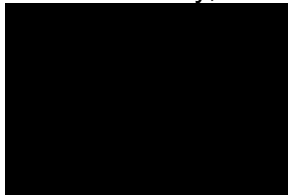
- Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Project Definition on Wednesday 21st June 2023
- Issue Specific Hearing 2 (ISH2) on the draft Development Consent Order (dDCO) on Thursday 22nd June 2023.

This request has also been submitted via the online Event participation Form.

Comments by Interested Parties (IPs) on the Applicant's proposed ASI itinerary (PDB-001)

KCC has a number comments regarding the Applicant's proposed ASI itinerary. These have been provided within a separate submission to Procedural Deadline C.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Jones

Corporate Director – Growth, Environment and Transport