

Since ISH1 [REP1-257], Medway Council's representations have highlighted the capacity and safety of M2 junction 1 as a strategic planning matter. ISH4 and ISH10 focussed on junctions to the north of the River Thames and Blue Bell Hill (A229) in Kent. At Deadline 6, the Applicant submitted an updated report on Localised Traffic Modelling [REP6-056 and REP6-058] and a Wider Network Impacts Position Paper [REP6-092]. There has been no consideration of M2 junction 1 in hearings to date; however, Medway Council has no new information to bring to the Examining Authority's attention at ISH13.

Following Medway Council's Deadline 6 written representations [REP6-149 and REP6-150] regarding the Applicant's limited consideration of Medway Council's Local Impact Report (LIR) [REP1-258], the Applicant arranged a meeting with Medway Council on 8 November. Medway Council's LIR [REP1-258] set out a reasoned justification for National Highways to be a funding source in an Infrastructure Delivery Plan for proportionate contributions due for local mitigations. During the meeting on 8 November, Medway Council noted that this is not in the gift of the Applicant (the Lower Thames Crossing project team working on behalf of National Highways).

During the same meeting on 8 November, Medway Council advised that relevant planned development at Kingsnorth and the Isle of Grain in Medway Council's LIR [REP1-258] is subject to change. This is set out in a contractor's draft 'Forecasting Methodology Technical Note' for traffic modelling to inform a new local plan. The Forecasting Methodology Technical Note is to be reviewed by National Highways.

However, as in Medway Council's Deadline 3 representation [REP3-188], the journey time reductions for the A289 'Four Elms Roundabout to M2 junction 1 are questionable for both the construction and operational phases due to unimplemented local road improvements assumed in the Lower Thames Area Model (LTAM). Moreover, as in Medway Council's previous representations, the LTAM core scenario does not reflect Medway's development needs.

Medway Council is working with the Applicant to submit an updated Statement of Common Ground at Deadline 8.