



Meeting note

File reference	TR010032
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	17 December 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Virtual meeting
Meeting objectives	Project update meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

The Applicant provided an overview of activities to date following the Acceptance process. The Applicant set out how it had been reviewing the Inspectorate's s51 advice and those Adequacy of Consultation Responses that had been released (following permission from their authors) in order to begin progression of the re-submitted application.

The Applicant outlined its approach to progressing engagement with its stakeholders, such as the local authorities, environmental statutory bodies and statutory undertakers. The Applicant highlighted that it was taking the time to build a robust and realistic engagement programme and was reviewing the types of information that it was sharing with appropriate stakeholders. The Applicant confirmed that it had shared the application documents with stakeholders and was wanting to work collaboratively on the next steps.

The Applicant was reviewing how the application documents had sought to articulate and explain certain issues. The Applicant was considering areas where they might be wanting to explore in more detail with the Inspectorate how the story-telling in the application could be strengthened.

The Inspectorate explained that it had recently met with some of the relevant local authorities¹. The discussion noted the engagement by the Inspectorate on the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project, a Highways England scheme, and agreed to investigate and share good working practices.

It was noted that some tripartite meetings may occur with the Inspectorate and other stakeholders going forward. For example, the Inspectorate outlined its involvement on previous applications in an Evidence Plan process, primarily in respect of a Habitats Regulations Assessment process but could have broader applications.

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/lower-thames-crossing/?ipcsection=advice&ipcadvice=57378a1ad4>