

# Meeting note

<b>Project name</b>	Lower Thames Crossing
<b>File reference</b>	TR010032
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	30 September 2021
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Highways (NH), Thurrock Council (TC), Gravesham Borough Council (GBC), London Borough of Havering (LBH), Kent County Council (KCC), Essex County Council (ECC) and Medway Council (MC)
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Tripartite meeting between PINS, Lower Thames Crossing and some of the Local Authorities impacted by the scheme.
<b>Circulation</b>	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 Inspectorate gave a brief overview of the reason for the meeting and background. National Highways (NH – formerly Highways England) gave a brief update on the current situation and future programme.

In a discussion about current working relationships most participants considered that the working relationships had improved since the first application was withdrawn. NH advised that they had undertaken an internal review following the 23 June 2021 'Note of Issues' from the local authorities and was looking at how to address those issues. It was generally agreed that the most progress had been made on small matters and larger issues were still outstanding.

In relation to a point about documents that would be useful to the Examining Authority appointed to examine the application in the event that it were accepted for examination, the Inspectorate advised that a joint Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with the host authorities (such as was submitted for the Silvertown Tunnel NSIP) could be useful, however, it was noted that individual SoCGs would still be requested. The Inspectorate strongly encouraged NH and the local authorities to identify issues that are not agreed, as well as those that are agreed. In addition, Local Impact Reports and Statements of Commonality are very helpful in examination.

In a discussion regarding the level of pre-application engagement and sharing of documents, it was noted that there will inevitably be complex matters which will need to be explored during an examination, but the aim of all parties should be to seek to resolve matters as far as is possible in the pre-application stage. The Inspectorate noted

that it is often the case that sharing information or making details available to parties as early as possible can help that process.

Attendees agreed that it would be helpful to have another tripartite meeting in a couple of months time.