

Meeting note

Project name	A27 Arundel Bypass
File reference	TR010045
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	5 November 2020
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project update
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.

Project update

Highways England (the Applicant) explained that it would be working with a framework of partners including BAM Nuttall, AECOM and Mace to deliver the scheme; collectively known as Linkconnex.

The Applicant summarised the history of the scheme, including the matters which had influenced the withdrawal of the Preferred Route Announcement (PRA) made in Spring 2018. A new PRA had been made in October 2020 which saw the route of the scheme removed from within the South Downs National Park. The new route was known as 'the Grey Route'.

The Applicant summarised the current scheme design including the new junctions and bridges proposed, acknowledging changes could be made as the scheme evolved prior to submission of the application. The Applicant drew attention to a local golf course and an area of land identified for housing development, the impacts upon which the Applicant was in the process of considering ahead of finalising its scheme design. The Applicant explained the engineering challenges associated with designing a scheme within the local landscape. The scheme also crosses a flood plain. The Applicant summarised its engineering options and landscape strategy to the Inspectorate.

The Applicant explained that in respect of traffic modelling, because of the impact of COVID-19 on travel patterns in 2020 it intended to use a 2015 base model, potentially calibrated by 2019 mobile data.

The Applicant summarised the affect of the scheme on utilities and acknowledged the potential for a future grid connection to an offshore windfarm to interact with the

scheme. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to identify early if any utility diversions required to deliver the scheme might be considered Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in their own right. The Inspectorate highlighted the risks associated with identifying another NSIP within the proposed works late in the Pre-application process.

The Applicant provided an overview of the on-going engagement with a range of stakeholders, including the local authorities and local communities.

Future programme

The Applicant confirmed that it intended to submit a Scoping Report early in 2021. It was aware of the requirement to send a GIS shapefile to the Inspectorate at least 10 days prior to the submission of the Scoping Report.

The Applicant aimed to undertake statutory consultation in respect of the scheme in Summer/Autumn 2021. Submission of the application was expected to follow at the end of 2021/early 2022.

The Applicant and the Inspectorate agreed to meet again in early January 2021 for a project update prior to submission of the Scoping Report.