

[REDACTED]

From: Committee Services (MBC) <Committee@Maidstone.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 9:22 AM

To: HAIGH, Louise [REDACTED] >

Cc: Ryan OConnell [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Letter regarding Lower Thames Crossing from Maidstone Borough Council

Good morning

Please see attached a letter from the Leader of Maidstone Borough Council and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Management concerning the Lower Thames Crossing.

Please contact us if you need further assistance.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Democratic Services Officer

Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ

[REDACTED] www.maidstone.gov.uk

To access our digital services please visit <https://maidstone.gov.uk/service> Sign up to receive your Council Tax bill by email <https://maidstone.gov.uk/emailbilling> We understand the importance of ensuring that personal data, including sensitive personal data is always treated lawfully and appropriately and that the rights of individuals are upheld. We are required to collect, use and hold personal data about individuals.

7 October 2024

Sent via email

Dear Secretary of State,

Lower Thames Crossing

We would like to place on record our profound concerns regarding Government plans for a new [REDACTED].

In financial terms, the current estimated cost tag of c.£9 billion for such a challenging engineering project will inevitably increase exponentially. This open ended sum would much better be spent on tackling the other more pressing challenges facing the UK such as an inadequate and dysfunctional public transport system or our crumbling water utilities and sewerage network.

Specifically in relation to the Lower Thames Crossing, the resilience risks associated with such a long road tunnel and the siting of the tunnel's approaches within the fog-trap, flood-vulnerable wildlands surrounding the Thames Estuary are also too great. Resilience and emergency planning functions have shifted since the inception of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to a far more bureaucratic and desk based model and much of the operational capacity to deal with transport disasters has been dissipated.

From an environmental and landscape perspective Kent and Essex are already fragmented by major transport infrastructure and development pressure is already politically and ecologically unsustainable. A Lower Thames Crossing will further 'overheat' Mid and East Kent and Essex. Nature is in more precipitate decline in the South East than other parts of the UK because of population density and urbanisation and this 'predict and provide' anachronism of a road scheme will not help.

Maidstone Borough Council

Maidstone House,
King Street ME15 6JQ

 maidstone.gov.uk

 [maidstonebc](https://twitter.com/maidstonebc)

 [maidstoneboroughcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/maidstoneboroughcouncil)

[REDACTED]

The need for investment in public transport in Kent is paramount yet the new crossing will not facilitate that, indeed as evidence has repeatedly shown, new roads simply allow for an increase in road traffic. To be clear, we do not want more traffic on our roads.

If you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Leader of Maidstone Borough Council

Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and
Management