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Planning Inspectorate
Reference: TR010032

Interested Party
Reference Number:
20035779

Date: 23 October 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: The A122 (Lower Thames Crossing) Development Consent Order 2025 - Application for a Non-Material Change under Schedule 6 to the Planning Act 2008 – (Application NMC-2)

Thank you for the opportunity to make a representation on National Highways' application for a non-material change to the Lower Thames Crossing Development Consent Order (DCO) 2025 ("**Amendment**").

Kent County Council (KCC) has long supported National Highways' proposals for a new Lower Thames Crossing (LTC), and this has been evidenced throughout our responses to various consultations and the formal DCO examination. The LTC has the potential to deliver substantial economic growth both regionally and nationally, along with unlocking significant gridlock experienced in Kent on a daily basis at the existing Dartford Crossing.

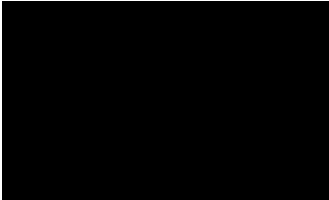
KCC has always stressed the urgency of the need for a new crossing of the Thames and has expressed caution regarding any potential delay to the delivery of this vital scheme.

We have been advised by National Highways that if the Amendment is not granted, it would cause a delay in the delivery of the LTC. If this is the case, we would not object to the Amendment. The Amendment (if granted) requires the parties to agree the financial contribution required by Article 65 of the DCO to be decided at a later trigger date (i.e. prior to the commencement of any part of the authorised development located south of the River Thames). We are advised by National Highways that commencement is likely to start in the first quarter of 2026.

Although negotiations between National Highways and the Kent Downs National Landscape are ongoing regarding the financial contribution required by Article 65, we accept that if the Amendment is granted, it would allow the parties more time to reach an agreement.

KCC remains hopeful that an agreement between National Highways and the Kent Downs National Landscape can be reached, and we look forward to a swift resolution to this issue.

Yours sincerely



Simon Jones

Corporate Director – Growth, Environment and Transport