



Meeting note

Project name	Lower Thames Crossing
File reference	TR010032
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	20 September 2018
Meeting with	Highways England
Venue	Temple Quay House
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

The Applicant reintroduced the scheme to The Inspectorate and provided an update on the changes made to the scheme since the previous meeting. The new changes were informed by modelling the future capacity of the area and also took account of other works that would be occurring around the site.

NSIP Status

The Applicant informed The Inspectorate that there is still some contention on whether or not the scheme would be considered off-shore development. The Applicant will be including a Health Impact Assessment in the DCO submission as a separate document and will also be providing a Transport Assessment to provide more clarity.

Scoping Report

The Inspectorate queried whether a new Scoping Report would be required due to updated changes. The Applicant is reviewing the Scoping Report and is to consult with their EIA team. In the Applicant's view the technical assessment is still valid, however, the boundary of the scheme and the design of a number of elements have changed. The Applicant plans to have another meeting with The Inspectorate to determine whether an updated Scoping Opinion should be requested.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Inspectorate questioned The Applicant on how they engaged with all the main stakeholders and the public. The Applicant advised they are continuing to engage with land owners and has not had many issues in terms of access to land.

The revised land boundary may have a blight impact on some residents and The Applicant plans to put in place a discretionary process for those individuals outside the boundary. The land boundary has been extended to construct third party infrastructure. The applicant informed the planning inspectorate that this extended land boundary includes air rights due to the need to reroute pylons.

Statutory consultation

The Applicant expects to go for statutory consultation in October 2018. The Applicant advised that they have engaged with local authorities, both separately and together. This is so all the authorities get the information about the scheme at the same time. The Applicant informed The Inspectorate that there were protest groups.

There are 26 public events planned with 37 mobile centre events for hard to reach areas that still require a presence. In preparation for the statutory consultation the Applicant consulted eight host authorities on the draft statement of community consultation. The Applicant has been asked to extend the duration of consultation but will consult for ten weeks in accordance with the original proposals as set out in the draft statement of community consultation.

The Applicant expects a big turn out to statutory consultation, similar to their consultation in 2016. The Applicant has continued to keep in contact with stakeholders, communities and local authorities. The Applicant is still in discussion with key stakeholders such as National Grid and commercial farmers. The Applicant has been in talks with Natural England in order to seek advice regarding ecological mitigation.

Timeline

The Applicant advised they expect to start Statutory Consultation in October 2018 and expect to submit the DCO application in late summer 2019. The Inspectorate questioned whether this deadline was likely to slip, however, the Applicant advised that the application is on track for submission in 2019.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant of their duties to send in a S46 Notification before the start of their statutory consultation.