



Meeting note

Project name	Lower Thames Crossing
File reference	TR010032
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	27 May 2021
Meeting with	Highways England (the Applicant)
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.

Document sharing

The Inspectorate addressed the document list that the Applicant had developed as an aid for navigating the Development Consent Order (DCO) application documents.

In respect of the documentation the Applicant also noted that although it was amending parts of the first iteration of its DCO application, some of it would remain unaltered. The Applicant cited chapter 8 of the Transport Assessment in particular noting that it was proposed to be expanded, but other parts of that document were unlikely to change although the opening year of the project would be different.

The Applicant stated that the interrelationship between documents was important, as traffic information was presented across several linked documents. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be mindful of ensuring the accessibility of the documentation in light of this. The Applicant responded that the documentation would be subject to an appropriate design process before being finalised, and that it would be able to provide further explanation of the interrelationships as required in the meantime.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to be mindful of using terminology in a consistent way throughout the DCO application documentation.

Stakeholder engagement update

The Applicant advised that it was in the process of discussing tunnel depths with the Port of Tilbury (PoT) and Port of London Authority (PoLA). The Applicant explained that its

development would not prevent ordinary dredging of the channel at all depths in the vicinity of the tunnel, but was seeking to provide satisfactory comfort to that end in the DCO.

The Applicant advised that it was working to narrow down the list of priority topics with local authorities (LA). The Applicant stated that it had indicated to LAs and statutory environmental bodies (SEB) which technical documents it would be consulting with them on, including both new and updated documents. The Applicant also presented a summary of which documents had been shared with LAs and SEBs.

Programme update

The Applicant advised that it was currently in a busy period of its programme, but that it was working to maintain momentum for its planned DCO submission in late 2021.