

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PARISH PARTNERSHIP PANEL

18 February 2016

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 LOWER THAMES CROSSING UPDATE

This report updates the Panel on the latest round of public consultations for the Lower Thames Crossing.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Highways England launched the latest public consultation exercise into options for a new Lower Thames Crossing on the 26th January. The consultation runs to 24th March. Ten Public Information Events were held between 5th and the 18th February including four in Kent (held at Gravesham and Shorne).
- 1.1.2 Previous consultations in 2013 included options for three crossing points, but the latest consultation is for a single option, namely a road tunnel crossing east of Gravesend (in Kent) and Tilbury (in Essex), previously known as Option C. Views are also sought on different route options linking the crossing points to the rest of the Strategic Highway Network. There are three options north of the Thames, linking to the M25 between Junctions 29 and 30 and two to the south of the Thames linking to the A2/M2 (between Thong on the A2 and Junction 1 of the M2).
- 1.1.3 The 2013 consultation also included an Option C 'Variant', which would have included additional improvements to the A229 between the M20 and M2, but this has not been included as part of the current consultations.
- 1.1.4 More information on the proposals and how to comment can be found on Highways England's website here: <http://www.lower-thames-crossing.co.uk/>
- 1.1.5 This includes a booklet entitled 'Lower Thames Crossing, Route Consultation 2016' which Highways England recommends reading before responding. Responses can be made on line by filling out a questionnaire, with 8 set questions. If respondents have problems accessing the questionnaire on line, Highways England can be contacted on this number 0300 123 5000.
- 1.1.6 At the time of writing the Borough Council was considering the consultation documentation and formulating a response. As Option C is now favoured it will be

critical that there is a thorough evaluation of the impacts on the local highway network and junctions and satisfactory mitigation measures. We will liaise with Kent Highways in addressing these issues.

Background papers:

Nil

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