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Subject	A120 Braintree Member Meeting Notes		
Project	A120 Braintree to A12 Feasibility Study	Project No.	B3553T41
Prepared by	Seyi Obaye-Daley		
Location	Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex, CM7 9HB	Date/Time	12 September 2017, 2-4pm
Participants	Cllr Kevin Bentley (KB) Chris Stevenson (CS) Lisa Pook (LP) Alan Lindsay (AL) Mark Stubbs (MS) Jon Wallace (JW) Seyi Obaye-Daley (SOD) John Lindsay (JL) Andrew Hensman (AH) Kevin Bowers (Kb) James Abbott (JA) Iona Parker (IP) Patricia Newton (PN) Peter Schwier (PS) Lynette Bowers-Flint (LBF) Charmian Goundry (CG) Susan Pedder (SP) Gabrielle Spray (GS) John Bendall (JB) Bob Suckling (BS) Ken McDonald (KM) Tom Cunningham (TC) Stephen Canning (SC) Joanne Beavis (JB)		

Notes	Action
<p>1 Welcome and Introductions KB welcomed attendees and commenced introductions, before providing an overview of the format of the meeting. KB reiterated importance of the route and the role of Essex County Council and councils in driving the scheme forward. CS continued the introductions and briefly outlined that today the emphasis was on sharing the results of</p>	

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<p>consultation to as wide an audience of District Councils and Parish Councils as possible. He stated that the same presentation had been given to the Member Forum and the Braintree Local Community Forum already.</p> <p>2 Consultation Presentation</p> <p><u>Public Consultation Options</u></p> <p>LP discussed engagement to date on the A120 including council meetings, press releases, website updates and the consultation</p> <p>LP explained selection process for the routes and showed the final five route options and their alignments</p> <p>LP commented on the 11 consultation events resulting in 3143 attendees, and 2795 responses on the proposed route options. Attendees were asked to rate their satisfaction at the events – attendees rated the events on average 90% satisfied which is testament to the team.</p> <p><u>Outcomes of Consultation</u></p> <p>LP thanked the audience for their help in promoting the consultation events and discussed the findings from the consultation which ran between 17th January and 14th March 2017.</p> <p>The aim of the public consultation was to inform the selection of a favoured route option recommendation for the A120 between Braintree and the A12.</p> <p>LP discussed the consultation outcomes summary, 82% of respondents felt that the A120 required a complete upgrade to meet current and future demand</p> <p>Through agreement to a series of statements, respondents indicated that they strongly agreed or agreed that they would like to see upgrades which would: reduce queuing at junctions (86%), reduce HGV's need to travel through villages (85%), improve journey times (82%) and upgrade the A120 to dual carriageway (80%). 46% also agreed or strongly agreed that pedestrian, cycling and equestrian facilities should be improved.</p> <p>LP noted that a lot of respondents said they do not want the chosen option to require traffic to go through the existing Galleys Corner roundabout.</p> <p>In the consultation questionnaire, respondents were asked to rank the five options presented from 1 to 5. LP proceeded to describe the outcomes of this: Of those respondents who provided a ranking, options C and E were favoured. Option C received the highest number of '1' rankings, followed by option E, when '1' and '2'</p>	

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<p>rankings are considered there is little difference between the two however.</p> <p>LP stated all routes have varying support but they are relatively close. If you add the first and second preference together, routes C&E are favoured, but there is no clear winner from the options.</p> <p><u>Transport Focus</u></p> <p>CS presented the outcome from the independent survey carried out by Transport Focus. This survey asked around 2000 A120 road users a series of questions on their degree of satisfaction with the road. It is clear from the study that there is much dissatisfaction with the current road including journey times, road type and safety issues.</p> <p>CS highlighted that the Transport Focus study and the consultation provide a good case for something to be done, and reiterated that Essex County Council wants one of the routes to be built.</p> <p>CS also highlighted that there are many factors that will influence the decision of the preferred route option recommendation, in addition to the results from the public consultation such as strategic managerial, economic, environmental and financial factors.</p> <p><u>Considerations and Timeline</u></p> <p>CS and KB explained the timeline of continuing activity and requirements to progress the study. ECC intend to make an announcement in the autumn on its recommendations for the route option and anticipate that Highways England announce the RIS2 (Road Investment Strategy 2) in 2018.</p> <p><u>Questions/Comment</u></p> <p>JA asked for clarification on how HGV's will access proposed waste management site. Also raised concerns about funding local public transport services to schools.</p> <p>KB stated that this was about the A120 and its connectivity and contribution to the economy but that the County Council does consider other transport initiatives and that he and the Council are working with others to create an on-demand public transport system to help reduce numbers of cars and help with accessibility in rural areas, and are also looking into electric cars.</p> <p>IP asked if cost will be considered when making the final recommendation.</p> <p>KB clarified that although cost is a consideration the Council also have to look at a range of other factors as touched on during CS's presentation. The Department</p>	<p>To provide link to the study</p> <p>https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/research-publications/publications/a120-braintree-marks-tey-road-users-experiences-desired-improvements/</p>

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<p>for Transport will want to see evidence supporting the route recommendation.</p> <p>CS stated HE regularly checks costings to ensure money being spent matches the money spent on other similar A-roads.</p> <p>JL asked what would happen if the Secretary of State rejected the recommendation due to cost.</p> <p>KB stressed the importance of the road for the UK and not just Essex. KB went on to highlight the need to negotiate as it is not yet a done deal. He stated that lobbying will be necessary and that he will invite every level of Council to attend cabinet.</p> <p>PS asked whether studies have been undertaken on the expected economic growth following road infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>KB stated that studies have been undertaken. KB explained that Essex need to prove it has the appropriate infrastructure in place to accommodate new businesses. KB highlighted the need for an east/west linkage in the area.</p> <p>KB explained this had been a consideration and looked into by Braintree District Council also.</p> <p>PN asked for clarification on what could lead to the Council recommending more than one route.</p> <p>KB clarified the decision making process is evidence based and as the consultation suggests the routes are currently very close. KB has asked for only one recommendation if possible.</p> <p>AH asked about timelines and if the road will be in place in time for planned local developments. He also asked if alternative transport links could be put in place alongside A120 improvements.</p> <p>KB reiterated his confidence that the road will be in place by the time the Local Plans commenced their larger developments such as Garden Communities. KB stated that the Council wouldn't be considering A120 improvements if they didn't believe it could work and that the Council want to ensure that the road is modern, adaptable and fit for purpose for the next 100 years or so.</p> <p>CS reiterated the importance of creating a route that is adaptable in order to keep up with time and technology, for example it could in the future be useful for inter-urban bus services at a higher frequency than experienced today.</p> <p>IP asked for clarifications on preferred entry routes at Braintree.</p> <p>MS stated it is close between Galleys Corner and Panners in terms of preference for the route starting off points</p> <p>MW stated that from interactions at consultation events</p>	

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<p>respondents tended to prefer entry at Panners. It is important to clarify that Galleys Corner would be replaced by a grade separated junction if options to use this point as the starting place for the new route were selected.</p> <p>LBF added that many may not have realised that Galleys Corner will be replaced.</p> <p>JA asked if the environmental impacts of having an exit at Panners had been considered.</p> <p>CS stated that the environmental team would do their best to mitigate such impacts and that all routes would need to negotiate crossings of natural and man-made features such as rivers and railway lines.</p> <p>KB closed proceedings and encouraged attendees to attend cabinet meeting on 23 November 2017.</p>	<p>To share the recommendations with attendees as soon as they are in the public domain</p>
<p>3 Any Other Business None</p> <p>End of Meeting</p>	