

Purpose	A120/A12 Members' Forum Minutes		
Project	A120 Braintree to A12 Feasibility Study and A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening	Date/Time	Friday 7 July 2017
Location	Committee Room 2, County Hall, Market Road Chelmsford CM1 1QH	Prepared by	Zoe Sturgess
Attendees			

Agenda Item	Notes	Actions
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Everyone introduced themselves and Cllr Kevin Bentley (KB) explained this forum would combine both the A12 and A120 schemes. Andrew Cook (AC) gave a brief overview of the A120 scheme.</p>	
2	<p>A12 Presentation</p> <p>David Orr-Ewing (DOE) provided an overview of the A12 consultation period. He explained that good feedback was received on holding joint events between the A12 and A120.1, 853 attendees came to the 7 events (6 joint events and 1 individual A12 event). Overall the events received 89% positive feedback.</p> <p>907 consultation responses were received. We received feedback on junctions, and it was revealed that junction 23 received the least support for improvements and junction 22 was the most.</p> <p>DOE confirmed that there was a distinct want for an event to be held in Hatfield Peverel. Whilst timings hindered holding one here for the non-statutory consultation, Highways England have already committed to ensuring there is an event held here for the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Paddy De Feu (PDF) talked through the route options from Junction 19 – 21. He explained there is support for making</p>	<p>DOE/Zoe Sturgess (ZS) to ensure a consultation event is held at Hatfield Peverel at the next round of consultations.</p> <p>DOE to check whether the two major businesses near to the Rivenhall bypass have provided consultation responses.</p> <p>DOE/ZS to set up a meeting in the long-term with HGV companies.</p> <p>PDF to review the suggestion for making lanes suitable or designated for slow moving lorries.</p> <p>DOE to double check</p>

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	<p>improvements to junction 20b. He also explained that Hatfield Peverel was eliminated at an early stage as a bypass option due to the cost of crossing the railway line, and the impact it would have on the landscape and environment.</p> <p>DOE added that around junctions 20a and 20b we received lots of interesting suggestions, including merging 20b and 21 with a link road to remove traffic from Hatfield Peverel.</p> <p>Cllr Andrew St Joseph (ASJ) also asked for further clarification around the Rivenhall junction in the case of the bypass option. PDF responded saying that the intention of the bypass option is to maintain that junction and the associated access it provides to the local roads, communities and businesses.</p> <p>KB raised the point that the two major businesses close to the Rivenhall bypass will require good access. DOE will check their consultation responses. KB also mentioned that haulage companies need good access onto the A12. He suggested setting up a meeting with HGV companies once further work has been undertaken. KB also flagged up the importance of the ports, and ensuring accessibility to them is fully maintained. Loraine Bennetts (LB) explained that we want to engage with all these types of businesses. KB asked whether we have had responses from the major freight carriers. He asked if we had considered making lanes suitable or even designated for slow moving lorries. PDF said that he will take this away and review. DOE confirmed that we received a response from Hutchinson Ports, Felixstowe, but we will double check.</p> <p>PDF and DOE explained that the Project Team are collaborating with different organisations and schemes. Discussions are being undertaken with the Crown Estates about their housing developments by Junction 24. Discussions are being held with Essex County Council to consider the A120 plans, and also with Colchester Borough Council on the Marks Tey Garden Community.</p> <p>Paul Wilkinson (PW) raised the point that Colchester's Local Plan decision could be made partway during the A12 DCO process. These plans include the Marks Tey Garden Community plans. KB noted that there are multiple Local Plans in the area and that we must be aware of them. PDF said we want to ensure that prior to entering the DCO process we are aware of everything.</p> <p>PDF updated on work completed to date. We have finished the first round of traffic forecasting. We are currently in the process of refining and reviewing. In addition we are</p>	<p>whether we received consultation responses from the ports.</p>

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	<p>developing the junction strategy to see how the future traffic would be catered for on junctions along the route. The intention is to upgrade to all-movement junctions. We are also aware of the need to fix the current traffic situation through Hatfield Peverel.</p> <p>The business case and value for money/benefit cost ratio (BCR) is currently being calculated. Following this and further work on forecasting and modelling a Preferred Route Announcement will be made.</p>	
3	<p>DCO Process</p> <p>Ian Fletcher (IF) explained the history of the DCO process. There is a set timescale of 18 months for the overall process. This is an examination process led by an inspector. It is primarily written but there will be discussions.</p> <p>During the process Local Authorities will have 21 days to respond to questions, but it may not always be possible to wait for the committee cycle. He suggested there needs to be a single point of contact for each Local Authority and that officers should speak to their local councillors about delegating responsibilities.</p> <p>He also explained that neighbouring Local Authorities need engaging with. KB said they will discuss points of contact in their next leaders meeting.</p> <p>KB asked whether Parish Councils will become automatically part of the DCO process or whether they have to sign up. IF will find out.</p> <p>DOE explained that we have already held a meeting with the Local Authorities to discuss this process, but we will also hold more in the future, and are in the process of setting up a planning sub-group to help local authorities with the process.</p> <p>This is the first time Essex will go through the DCO process, so will provide lots of useful lessons learned. Communication will prove critical.</p>	<p>KB to find out local authority points of contact in next leaders meeting.</p> <p>IF to check whether Parish Councils are automatically part of the DCO process or whether they have to sign up themselves.</p> <p>Members from each Local Authority to email Highways England with names of their ward members.</p> <p>IF to investigate whether there are any model statements on the DCO that Local Authorities could put into their plans.</p>
4	<p>A120 Presentation</p> <p>Virginia Van Der Meer (VV) provided an overview of the A120 consultation period. She explained that over 11 events there were 3,143 attendees. 2,795 responses were received, of which 87% were received online. 82% supported the need to upgrade the road, reflecting overwhelming support for the scheme.</p>	<p>CS to circulate the 'Points to consider' slide to leaders of the Cabinet.</p>

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	<p>KB asked whether we have spoken to businesses at Galley's Corner. VV said this is something that will be picked up.</p> <p>A model was shown of Essex-based locations to reflect where the range of responses has come from.</p> <p>Chris Stevenson (CS) explained that ECC does not have the authority to announce a Preferred Route for the A120, but will be making a suggestion to the Department for Transport (DfT). He explained that the road needs to fulfil overarching objectives to receive this approval.</p> <p>The A120 scheme hopes to enter RIS2. This decision will be made next year. It will be Highways England that determine the Preferred Route.</p>	<p>VV to talk to the businesses at Galley's Corner.</p>
5	<p>Transport Focus Study</p> <p>Keith Bailey (KB) depicted the recent road user study Transport Focus conducted on the A120. They looked for residents and people travelling through the area to complete the study. The report found that many were dissatisfied with the A120 at present, with commuters and business users the most dissatisfied groups of drivers. They also expressed concerns over the condition of the road surface.</p> <p>KB revealed that duelling of the existing route was discussed at length, but a new route was seen as the only solution.</p> <p>This report provides excellent proof for the need for improvements. It will be published and made publically available in due course.</p>	
6	<p>Alignment between A12 and A120</p> <p>CS explained that the timescales are aligned between the A12 and A120 schemes. The A120 favoured route will be recommended in Autumn this year by ECC, prior to the A12 holding their statutory consultation.</p> <p>CS also explained that there are joint engagement and communications through Forums and press engagement, amongst others.</p>	
7	<p>Lobbying</p>	<p>DM to send information to the new MP's on business engagement.</p>

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	<p>David McCullough (DM) explained that we are asking MP's in the region to endorse the A120. After the preferred route option is announced an event will be put on to get business supporters together.</p> <p>There are also plans to do another Parliamentary reception in Spring 2018.</p> <p>Vicky Ford (VF) said there are 4 new MP's. She suggested organising a meeting for them to bring them up to speed on the A120 scheme.</p>	
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>Helen Code (HC) updated on new developments in the region. The Knowledge Gateway at the University of Essex has provisions for 2,000 highly skilled jobs. The business case was recently sent for the Innovation Centre Phase 1, and the Northern Gateway, Colchester is being expanded.</p> <p>The A120 and A12 schemes should be discussed in private cabinet meetings.</p> <p>The presentation from this meeting will be shared.</p>	

Member	Organisation
Andrew Cook	Essex County Council
Chris Stevenson	Essex County Council
Cllr Kevin Bentley	Essex County Council
Michael Lilley	Colchester Borough Council
Cllr Mark Platt	Essex County Council
Jasmine Carswell	Essex County Council
Paul Wilkinson	Colchester Borough Council
Roger Mannion	Tiptree Parish Council
Janet Whyte	Braintree District Council
Jeremy Potter	Chelmsford City Council
Cllr Lynette Bowers-Flint	Braintree District Council

Leonie Alpin	Maldon District Council
Cllr Malcolm Watson	Chelmsford City Council
Helen Code	Essex County Council
Cllr Andrew St Joseph	Maldon District Council
Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council
Keith Bailey	Transport Focus
Cllr Gagan Mohindra	Essex County Council
David Leaf	Office of Priti Patel
Vicky Ford MP	Member of Parliament
Tom Gardiner	Tendring District Council
Cllr Howard Ryles	Uttlesford District Council
David McCullough	Riverside Communications
Lorraine Bennetts	Highways England
David Orr-Ewing	Jacobs
Paddy De Feu	Jacobs
Cameron Harvey	Jacobs
Virginia Van Der Meer	Jacobs
Lisa Pook	Jacobs
Ian Fletcher	Jacobs
Zoe Sturgess	Jacobs