

## **A417 MISSING LINK PREFERRED ROUTE CONSULTATION**

**Summary:** To provide an update on Highways England's planned release of consultation material on the A417 Missing Link Preferred Route.

**Recommendation:** To receive and consider a verbal report from the A417 Working Group on the A417 Missing Link.

**Office Ref:**

### **General Update**

1. As reflected in the working group report item, since April 2019;
  - The Board's Working Group met on 20<sup>th</sup> June, with sub meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> May.
  - The Highways England (HE) led Strategic Stakeholder Panel met on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> June and 4<sup>th</sup> September.
  - The Landscape, Environment & Heritage Technical Working Group met on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July and 20<sup>th</sup> August, with Board representatives present on 2 July and 20 August.
  - The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) consulted the Board on HEs Scoping Report for the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Board submitted detailed responses on 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June. Links to the responses have been provided to the full Board via the July monthly update. PINS were late in consulting the Board due to an administrative error at PINS. PINS issued their subsequent response on the Scoping Report on the 24<sup>th</sup> June.
2. Annex 1 provides an overall chronology of activity and progress towards identifying a suitable solution for the Missing Link since summer 2014.
3. HE was due to launch its consultation on the design of the Option 30 preferred route on 10<sup>th</sup> September, running the consultation for 6 weeks until 22<sup>nd</sup> October. On 6<sup>th</sup> September HE announced that the Secretary of State at the Department of Transport had agreed to consult on the proposed scheme, but had decided to delay the consultation.
4. The Board's Working Group had scheduled a meeting for the 13<sup>th</sup> September to take account of and initially review the consultation material issued by HE. It will provide verbal feedback to the Executive Committee.
5. The Board's morning site visit on the 1<sup>st</sup> October is due to focus on the A417 and will inform the Board's future response to any HE consultation.
6. HEs future consultation timetable is awaited.

**Supporting Paper(s):**

**Appendix 'A' - Chronology of A417 Missing Link since summer 2014.**