

From: **Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services**

To: Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee – 11 March 2016

Subject: “No Lower Thames Crossing East of Gravesend” - Petition Scheme Debate

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: Details of petition received which will be the subject of a debate in accordance with the County Council’s Petition Scheme.

For Decision

1. Introduction

(1) In accordance with the Petition Scheme agreed at the County Council on 13 September 2012, any petition on a County Council matter that has more than 2,500 signatures will trigger a debate at the appropriate Cabinet Committee.

(2) The process for the debate on each petition is that the Lead Petitioner(s) will be invited to speak to the petition for up to 5 minutes. There will then be a debate of up to 35 minutes (with each Member speaking for up to 3 minutes) before the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport is invited to respond for a maximum of 5 minutes at the end of the debate to advise the Cabinet Committee how he intends to respond to the petitioners’ concerns.

(3) As the subject matter of this petition relates to a matter that is the responsibility of the Council’s Executive, the Cabinet Committee may decide whether to make a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport to inform the decision-making process.

2. Petition – “No Lower Thames Crossing East of Gravesend”

(1) Kent County Council has received a petition that says the following;

“We the undersigned petition the council to withdraw its support for a Lower Thames Crossing East of Gravesend and to support the thousands of Kent residents whose lives would be devastated by this proposal. A new crossing east of Gravesend will not address the problems at Dartford”.

(2) The petition has attracted 3,672 signatures from people who live, work or study in Kent and therefore has triggered a debate at this Cabinet Committee.

A statement from the Lead Petitioners is attached (**Appendix A**) and Mr Bob Lane will be attending the meeting and speaking to the petition.

3. Recommendation

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee is invited to consider whether to make any recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport in relation to the action taken by the petitioners.

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Background Documents: None