



TGKP RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT STATEMENT ON LOWER THAMES CROSSING ON 12 DECEMBER 2013

The Thames Gateway Kent Partnership (TGKP) has welcomed the Government's announcement that Option B – the option passing through the Swanscombe Peninsula – has been discarded as a possible location for the proposed Lower Thames Crossing.

In its response to the Government's consultation in the summer, TGKP strongly opposed Option B. The route for Option B would have cut through the most important development sites in North Kent, and put at risk the development of the whole of Ebbsfleet Valley. It would also have jeopardised the major opportunities at the Swanscombe Peninsula, including the proposed Paramount Park leisure resort project.

Rob Bennett, Chairman of TGKP, said:

“The Partnership was clear in its response that an early decision to rule out Option B was essential, especially if for any reason there might be a delay in reaching a decision on the preferred location. So we are pleased that the Government has listened and responded to our concerns on this point.

“The Partnership will now consider the Ministerial Statement carefully. We urge that a final decision on location is reached as quickly as possible, in order to remove continuing uncertainty which risks inhibiting investment and growth in the North Kent economy.”

TGKP

12th December 2013