

**A27 Reference Group Meeting  
Monday 17 November 2014, 9am  
Chairman's Function Room, County Hall, Lewes**

**Present**

Simon Kirby MP (**Chair**)

Stephen Lloyd MP

■■■■■ Office Manager for Amber Rudd MP (*Sub for Amber Rudd MP*)

Cllr David Elkin, Deputy Leader, East Sussex County Council

Cllr Mike Blanch, East Sussex County Council

Cllr Bob Standley, Leader, Wealden District Council

Cllr Rob Blackman, Leader, Lewes District Council

Cllr Lord Amptill, Cabinet Member, Rother District Council (*Sub for Cllr Carl Maynard*)

Cllr Gill Mattock, Deputy Leader, Eastbourne Borough Council (*Sub for Cllr David Tutt*)

Rupert Clubb, Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, East Sussex County Council

■■■■■ Team Manager, Strategic Economic Infrastructure, East Sussex County Council

■■■■■ Eastbourne Borough Council (*Sub for Rob Cottrill*)

■■■■■ Rother District Council (*Sub for Tony Leonard*)

■■■■■ Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership

Richard Dawson, Head of Service Economic Development Skills & Infrastructure

■■■■■ East Sussex County Council (Minutes)

**Apologies**

Norman Baker MP

Greg Barker MP

Amber Rudd MP

Charles Hendry MP

Cllr Carl Maynard, Leader, Rother District Council

Cllr David Tutt, Leader, Eastbourne Borough Council


Tony Leonard, Executive Director of Business Operations, Rother District Council

Rob Cottrill, Chief Executive, Eastbourne Borough Council

Cllr Keith Glazier, Leader, East Sussex County Council

Cllr Rosalyn St Pierre, (*Sub for Norman Baker MP*)

Item		Action
1.	<b>Welcome, Introductions and Apologies</b>  Apologies noted above.	
2.	<b>Minutes and Progress Since Last Meeting (22 October 2014)</b>  The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.	
3.	<b>Update From Highways Agency/Department for Transport A27 Stakeholder Reference Group (04 November 2014)</b>  ■■■■■ talked the group through the below presentation which outlined context; evidence; and a detailed assessment of each option.	

	 <p>A27RefGroupPresentation17nov14.ppt</p> <p>■■■recapped what has happened since the last meeting. ■■■ then explained the scoring for the assessment of each option and why some options might have scored worse than others. Some of the criteria reviewed were value for money and whether it reached the study objectives.</p> <p>It is clear that although Option A (dual offline) and Option B (single offline) scored well in most assessments, their value for money – journey time savings are showing as very low. The group were concerned that the Treasury would be looking especially at this information. It is therefore important that the right evidence is provided to the Treasury to re-iterate the current capacity issues and the affect it could have on the district and borough local plans. To change the Treasury's perception of the benefit/cost analysis, it is important to show either the benefits would be greater than perceived or the costs would be lower than perceived.</p> <p>It is unclear at this moment in time what the Chancellor will say in the Autumn Statement regarding the A27.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>It is important to show that Option A (dual offline) has not only cross-party support, but that support is evident across the county at all government levels. The Treasury will be interested to know that the option has a high level of local support as they will not want to proceed with a controversial option.</p> <p>The group discussed the various different ways in which the issues and options could be publicised more widely. However, concerns were raised as to how much time there is before the Treasury decide on what will be mentioned in the Autumn Statement (03 December 2014).</p> <p><b>ACTION – Two letters will be drafted and passed to SK to hand deliver to the Treasury and the DfT.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION – These letters will be passed to the other East Sussex MPs and Leaders who can then submit the letters by hand themselves.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION – A charter should be created with some words declaring support for Option A (dual offline). The electronic signatures of members who wish to sign will then be added at the bottom.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION – A photo should be taken of the charter being handed in at number 11 Downing St and media informed. However, due to security, this may potentially take too long to organise within the tight timeframe. SK's office to advise.</b></p>	<p>■■■■■</p> <p>■■■</p> <p>■■■■■</p> <p>SK</p>

**N.B.** Due to time constraints, the above actions were amended. Two letters were emailed to the Treasury and DfT with electronic signatures at the bottom from members who wished to sign.