The Government has requested that we take forward proposals to construct the Thames Tunnel project. We need to follow a rigorous process to seek permission to build the tunnel.

Route to consent

National Policy Statements were introduced to the Planning Act 2008 to set out clear national policy for various types of infrastructure, and procedures for the examination and approval of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.

Promoters of such projects are required to obtain a development consent order by making an application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC).

The IPC is an independent body that stresses the importance of community and stakeholder consultation. They require a high degree of consultation at the pre-application stage. Applicants are required to have regard to consultation responses in formulating their application.

The Government has indicated that it intends to bring the Thames Tunnel project within the remit of the IPC, given its national significance and the urgency of the need to proceed with the project.

We are carrying out our pre-application consultation to comply with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and related guidance.