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## **Sevington Inland Border Facility (IBF) Update**

To: **Ashford Joint Transportation Board – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021**

By: **Toby Howe, Senior Highway Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Sevington/Mersham**

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**Summary:** **This report provides a progress update of the construction of the IBF**

### **For Information**

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#### **1.0 Construction Update**

- 1.1 Construction commenced on site July 16<sup>th</sup> 2020. Site opened to HGVs January 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. Construction has continued through the year with all site works nearing completion, and buildings either completed or ongoing.
- 1.2 Gallaghers have been on site carrying out all civils works from July, completion of civils was delayed due to heavy autumn and winter rain fall. All parts of site now usable (see Appendix 1 for photo update)
- 1.3 HMRC moved onto the site from temporary accommodation at Waterbrook in March and are operational with various checks being carried out for mainly outbound HGVs. Further checks for both inbound and outbound HGVs will commence in January 2022 which will see an increase in through flow of HGVs.
- 1.4 DEFRA are having the Border Control Post (BCP) constructed (See Appendix 2 for photo update) on site. From October 2021 paperwork checks will be carried out by Ashford port Health Authority (PHA) on site, from January 2022 physical checks will also be carried out.

#### **2.0 Site Operation**

- 2.1 From January 2021, HMRC have employed Wincanton and Mitie to operate the site and carry out traffic management within the site. As various sections of the site have been completed, KCC have handed over the areas to DfT and HMRC for the site operators to manage. Once all areas have been handed over, KCC will have no further operational responsibility.
- 2.2 Testing for Covid-19 was carried out for 100% of HGVs entering the site following requirements from the French Government in January. Currently, drivers requiring testing are encouraged to have tests at other locations, however there is still the facility for testing on site at Sevington.

#### **3.0 Traffic Management**

- 3.1 In December 2020, Op Brock was initiated with the Quick Movable Barrier (QMB) in place between M20 J9 & J8, and HGV traffic to Dover being diverted via Manston with Eurotunnel

freight using M20 and Sevington. In April, with traffic flows to the portals being as expected, Op Brock was stood down with the QMB moved to the hard shoulder. Op Brock remains on standby throughout the summer and if there are delays at the portals, Op Brock may be re-initiated.

- 3.2 Permanent traffic signals on the A2070 link road at the exit to the IBF were made live on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and are connected to the signals on J10A to coordinate traffic flows.
- 3.3 A few HGVs continue to use an incorrect post code to reach the site, ending up in residential areas – in particular Mersham. KCC, working with Highways England & DfT have arranged signing and marshals to discourage the rogue HGVs. DfT are working with SatNav companies to ensure that the correct post code to the site (TN25 6GE) is live on all systems.

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## Appendix 1



Southern section of site showing HGVs at HMRC offices



North west corner showing Sevington Church and newly constructed car park for church



## Appendix 2



DEFRA sheds under construction. Plant & Produce buildings on the right, two large buildings on left are Animal sheds.



View from the North. Office buildings under construction to left of picture – to rear of inspection sheds.