

# A127 Economic Growth Corridor Task Force

12 March 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

## Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Working group update
3. Re-trunking update
4. Interfacing projects
5. Any other business and future items

## 1. Welcome and apologies

## 2. Working group update

- Working Group met again on 11 February 2021
- Updated on correspondence with Roads Minister, request for meeting with DfT and Highways England, and initial work to revisit asset registers and other evidence
- Revised timeline shared
- Working group keen for joint letter from South Essex MPs supporting the case for re-trunking, when appropriate

### **3. Re-trunking update**

**Feedback from meeting with Highways England and DfT**

## DfT feedback

- Task Force lobbying and Baroness Vere letter meant DfT very aware of A127 re-trunking
- DfT emphasised preference for roads to be managed at local level
- Road Investment Strategy (RIS) 2 cited need to review trunking
- Ideal timing for changes and additions to Strategic Road Network April 2025 (RIS3)
- Ideally decision to pursue trunking should be reached by April 2022 with completion of Memorandum of Understanding
- A127, A13 and potentially parts of A130 under consideration for trunking

## Transport East feedback

- A127 corridor one of six priority areas identified by Transport East
- Transport East confirmed it had given advice to DfT for Major Road Network schemes

## Funding (DfT)

- Bid for trunking simply to access funds was not the right approach
- Best fit for Strategic Road Network and country, plus best fit for local road network
- Key question about more or fewer junctions – consistent view needed
- Potential approach to invest in local roads and make A127 more strategic
- Potential for funding within Major Road Network to grow above the £100 million cap

## Process (Highways England)

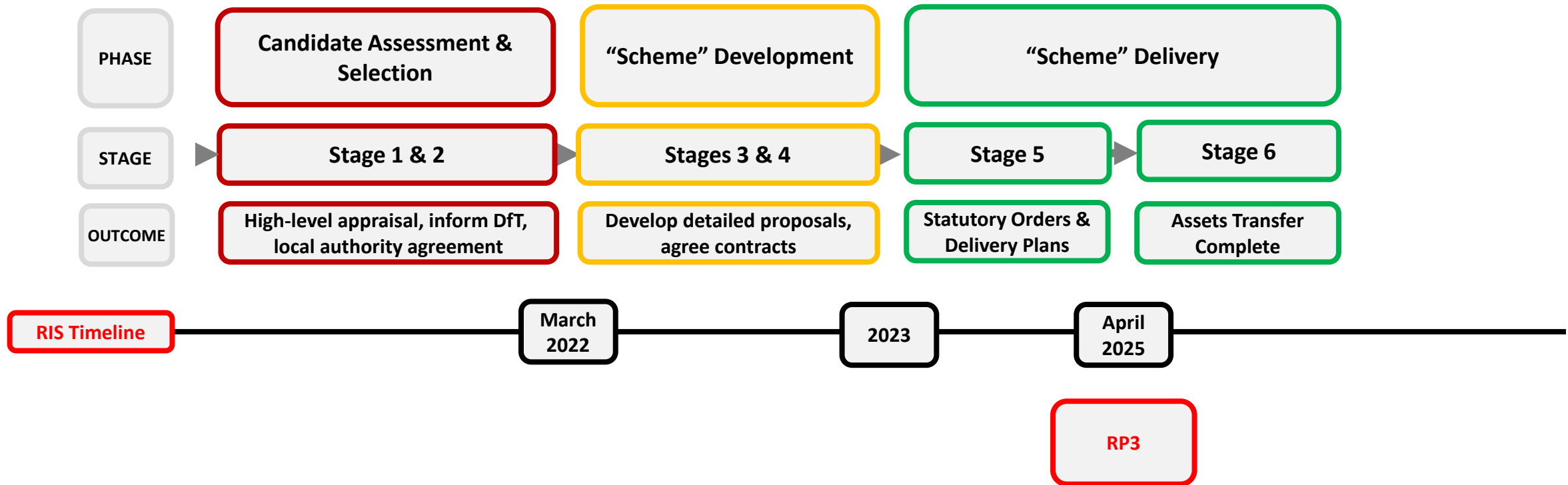
- Looking at list of 21 de-trunking and trunking ‘candidates’ for Road Investment Strategy 3 over next 12 months. As a result of activities of the Task Force, these include the A127
- Examine strategic priorities and local links
- Gathering evidence for submission to DfT end of March 2022
- Work under way with Lower Thames Crossing to understand its impact

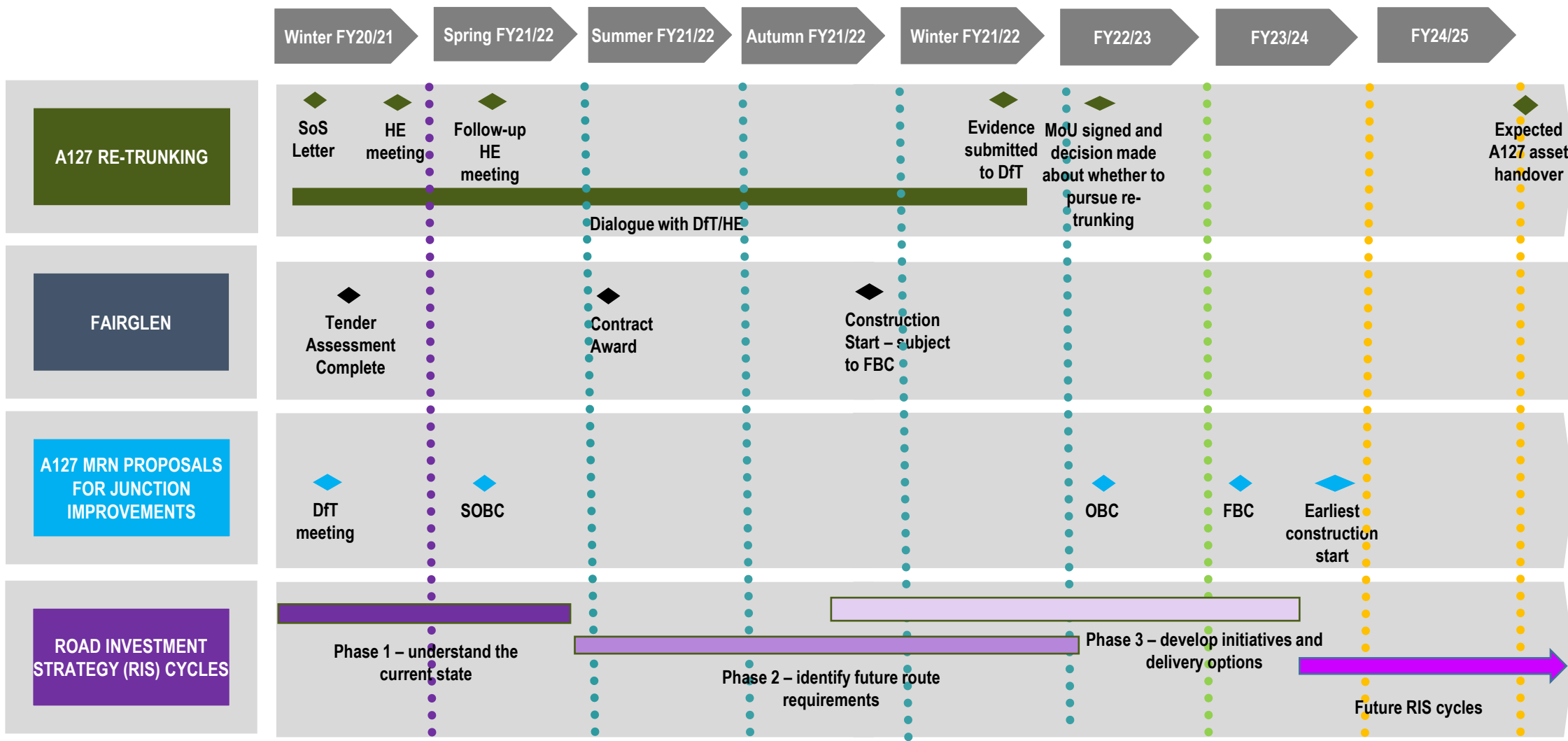
## Next steps and considerations

- More detailed meeting focusing on South Essex in April
- Lower Thames Crossing to be included in discussions
- Need to make case for strategic function of A127 considering:
  - Connecting major population centres
  - Ports, airports, rail terminals
  - Geographically peripheral regions of England
  - Cross-border routes to Scotland and Wales
- Should not focus on specific sites and junctions that support local growth
- Help enable DfT to be in a position to agree trunking by April 2022

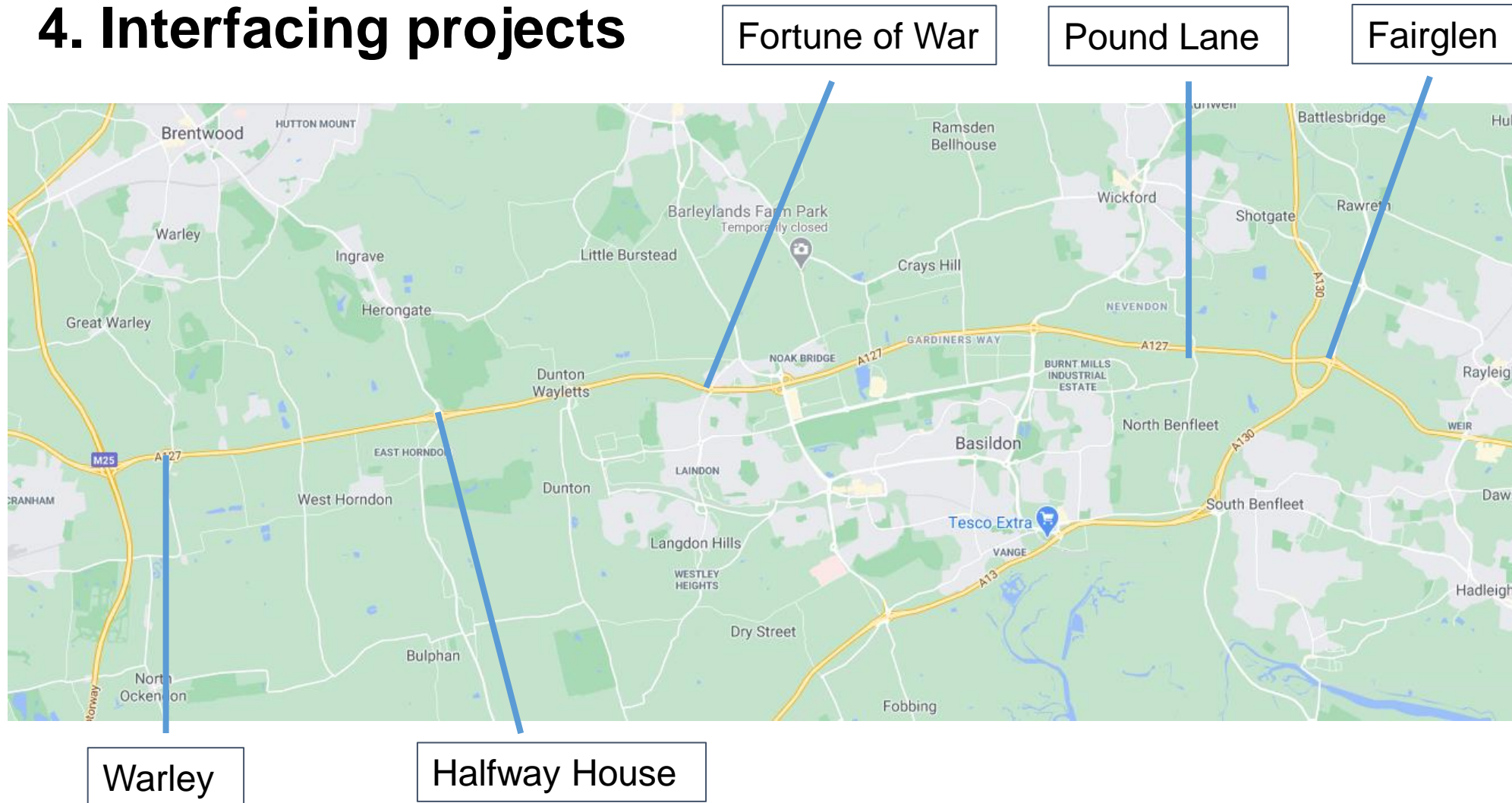


# Highways England – Trunking/de-trunking Candidate Development Process (draft)





## 4. Interfacing projects



## 5. Any other business and future items