

# A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Felton Scheme Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

## Introduction

Highways England is publishing this **Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)** in connection with a proposed improvement to the A1 between Morpeth and Felton in Northumberland. The purpose of this document is to set out how we will consult the local community about our proposal. The document also provides background to the project and how the application to build it will progress.

## The application

Highways England is developing this scheme under the Planning Act 2008 and is publishing this statement under Section 47 of that Act. We have consulted with Northumberland County Council, the local authority responsible for the area where the scheme will be built, about plans to consult the local community.

The Planning Act 2008 requires Highways England to make an application to the Secretary of State (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the scheme. The SoS's role is to consider whether authorisation should be given for major infrastructure projects like this scheme.

Highways England anticipates that a DCO application for the scheme will be published early 2019. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the SoS will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead.

Government policy relating to the development of the national road network is set out in the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS). This provides the framework for DCO applications to be considered against.

When Highways England submits its DCO application, the SoS must consider whether our consultation has been adequate. This pre-application consultation will be important in relation to the examination process that follows after an application is accepted by the Planning Inspectorate. Therefore, the best time to provide feedback on this scheme is now, by taking part in this pre-application consultation.

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on the Gov.uk website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

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## The scheme

The A1 in Northumberland: Morpeth to Felton scheme will upgrade the A1 to dual carriageway. A summary of the main features of the proposals are:

- Dualling the existing A1 between Warreners Bridge and Priests Bridge at the southern end of the scheme;
- Construction of a new dual carriageway, bypassing west of the existing A1, between Priests Bridge and Burgham Park; and
- Dualling the existing A1 between Burgham Park and Felton at the northern end of the scheme;
- Construction of a new bridge to carry the A1 over the River Coquet parallel to the existing road bridge;
- 3 new split level junctions that include a bridge over the A1 will be constructed at Highlaws, Fenrother and West Moor;
- Construction of a new bridge over the A1 at Causey Park and construction of a new road under the A1 at Burgham Park; and
- The existing A1 between Priests Bridge and Burgham Park bypassed by the new dual carriageway will become part of the local road network owned and maintained by Northumberland County Council.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- to reduce traffic congestion
- to improve road safety for road users and the local community
- to maintain east to west connectivity

## Consulting the community

In accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Highways England is consulting people living in the vicinity of the proposed scheme.

We have already carried out a public consultation during November and December 2016. During this we asked consultees for their views on the proposed scheme and to select their preferred route option for improvements between Morpeth and Felton. More details, including the outcome of this consultation is included in the public consultation report available to download from ([www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland)), on request from Highways England or to view for the duration of the consultation period at the display locations detailed in this SoCC.

We want to make sure that the local community, the residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users, have the opportunity to fully understand the scheme and comment on our proposals. To do this we are holding a six weeks public consultation between Monday **18 June 2018** and Sunday **29 July 2018** during which, we will provide consultation information on various issues including:

- Proposals for the new and existing A1, and junction layouts of the scheme;
- Works to the existing road and side roads;
- Environmental assessments and potential environmental impacts; and

- Environmental mitigation measures

The scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. We will therefore carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment for the scheme which will be submitted alongside the application. We are publishing Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the consultation material. This gives information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects, so to assist informed responses to this consultation.

Our public consultation will involve:

Method	Detail														
<b>Public consultation events</b>	<p>Public consultation events will be held at:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="523 790 1406 1720"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="523 790 1042 831">Location</th> <th data-bbox="1042 790 1406 831">Dates and times</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="523 831 1042 1003"> <b>Tritlington CoE Aided First School,</b>  <i>Tritlington, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3DU</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1042 831 1406 1003"> <b>Monday 2 July 2018</b>  <b>6pm to 8.30pm</b> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="523 1003 1042 1151"> <b>Morpeth Town Hall,</b>  <i>Market Place, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1LZ</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1042 1003 1406 1151"> <b>Tuesday 3 July 2018</b>  <b>2pm to 8pm</b> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="523 1151 1042 1294"> <b>Felton Village Hall,</b>  <i>Main Street, Felton, Northumberland NE65 9NH</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1042 1151 1406 1294"> <b>Wednesday 4 July 2018</b>  <b>2pm to 8pm</b> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="523 1294 1042 1440"> <b>Morpeth Town Hall,</b>  <i>Market Place, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1LZ</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1042 1294 1406 1440"> <b>Saturday 14 July 2018</b>  <b>10am to 4pm</b> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="523 1440 1042 1581"> <b>Longhorsley Village Hall,</b>  <i>Drummonds Close, Longhorsley, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 8UR</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1042 1440 1406 1581"> <b>Friday 20 July 2018</b>  <b>2pm to 8pm</b> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="523 1581 1042 1720"> <b>Morpeth Town Hall,</b>  <i>Market Place, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1LZ</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1042 1581 1406 1720"> <b>Saturday 21 July 2018</b>  <b>10am to 4pm</b> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The events will give people an opportunity to view the scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide comments.</p> <p>The public will be informed of the events through communication channels including advertisements in appropriate local newspapers, via our webpage and a press release.</p>	Location	Dates and times	<b>Tritlington CoE Aided First School,</b> <i>Tritlington, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 3DU</i>	<b>Monday 2 July 2018</b> <b>6pm to 8.30pm</b>	<b>Morpeth Town Hall,</b> <i>Market Place, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1LZ</i>	<b>Tuesday 3 July 2018</b> <b>2pm to 8pm</b>	<b>Felton Village Hall,</b> <i>Main Street, Felton, Northumberland NE65 9NH</i>	<b>Wednesday 4 July 2018</b> <b>2pm to 8pm</b>	<b>Morpeth Town Hall,</b> <i>Market Place, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1LZ</i>	<b>Saturday 14 July 2018</b> <b>10am to 4pm</b>	<b>Longhorsley Village Hall,</b> <i>Drummonds Close, Longhorsley, Morpeth, Northumberland NE65 8UR</i>	<b>Friday 20 July 2018</b> <b>2pm to 8pm</b>	<b>Morpeth Town Hall,</b> <i>Market Place, Morpeth, Northumberland NE61 1LZ</i>	<b>Saturday 21 July 2018</b> <b>10am to 4pm</b>
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	<p>Consultation response forms will be available at the events for members of the public to record their comments and these can either be submitted using the ballot boxes and/or sent back separately via the address noted below.</p>
<b>Scheme webpage</b>	<p>A full summary of the scheme, including downloadable copies of the consultation brochure and response form will be available on our dedicated webpage: <a href="http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland">www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland</a>. There will also be an online response form.</p>
<b>Public consultation brochure</b>	<p>A public consultation brochure and details of the planned public consultation events will be delivered to homes and businesses in the consultation zone shown at Appendix 1 (approximately 2,000 properties). Copies will also be available at locations locally for people to collect (details of locations are set out in the table below).</p>
<b>Council and community / area forum briefings</b>	<p>We will offer briefings to local parish councils and community / area forums within the area of the proposed scheme, to discuss the proposals during the formal consultation period.</p>
<b>Stakeholder briefings</b>	<p>When invited and where it is possible to do so, we will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal.</p>
<b>Establishing stakeholder groups</b>	<p>A stakeholder reference group has been established for the scheme and the fourth meeting will be held in June 2018. If a similar stakeholder group is already in existence or established by the relevant Local Authorities, we will participate when invited.</p>
<b>Consultation responses</b>	<p>Consultation responses can be submitted by completing the online response form at <a href="http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland">www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland</a></p> <p>by email <a href="mailto:A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk">A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk</a></p> <p>or in writing to the following address:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">         Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL          A1 in Northumberland project team          3rd Floor South          Highways England          Lateral          8 City Walk          Leeds          LS11 9AT       </p>

<b>Media</b>	The consultation will be advertised for two successive weeks in two local newspapers (Newcastle Journal and Northumberland Gazette), once in a national newspaper (The Times) and once in the London Gazette. Adverts will be placed in local newspapers at the launch of the consultation and reminders will be placed ahead of the consultation events. Press releases detailing the consultation and how people can participate will be issued.
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### Documents available for inspection

The public consultation brochure, this SoCC, policy guidance documents and other relevant technical documents listed in Appendix 3 will be available online and will be added to throughout the course of the project at ([www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland)) and will be available to view, free of charge during the consultation, at the local locations listed below:

Location	Opening times
<b>Morpeth Library</b> Royal Sovereign House, Manchester St, Morpeth NE61 1AF Tel: 01670 620 391	Monday 9am to 6pm Tuesday 9am to 5pm Wednesday 9am to 5pm Thursday 9am - 5pm Friday 9am - 6pm Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm Sunday closed
<b>Alnwick Library</b> Green Batt, Alnwick, NE66 1TU Tel: 01670 622 156	Monday 9am to 6pm Tuesday 9am to 5.30pm Wednesday closed Thursday 9am - 5.30pm Friday 9am - 6pm Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm Sunday closed
<b>Highways England,</b> Great North House, 20 Allington Way, Darlington, DL1 4QB Tel: 0300 470 1660	By prior appointment only: Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday closed
<b>WSP</b> Amber Court, William Armstrong Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE4 7YQ Tel: 0191 226 2000	By prior appointment only: Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm Saturday and Sunday closed

### Next steps

Comments made during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account in developing the scheme proposal. An explanation of how the comments received have shaped and influenced our proposals will be reported in a Consultation Report prepared by Highways England which will accompany the DCO application as required by Section 37(3) (c) of the

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Planning Act 2008. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether Highways England's pre-application consultation has been adequate.

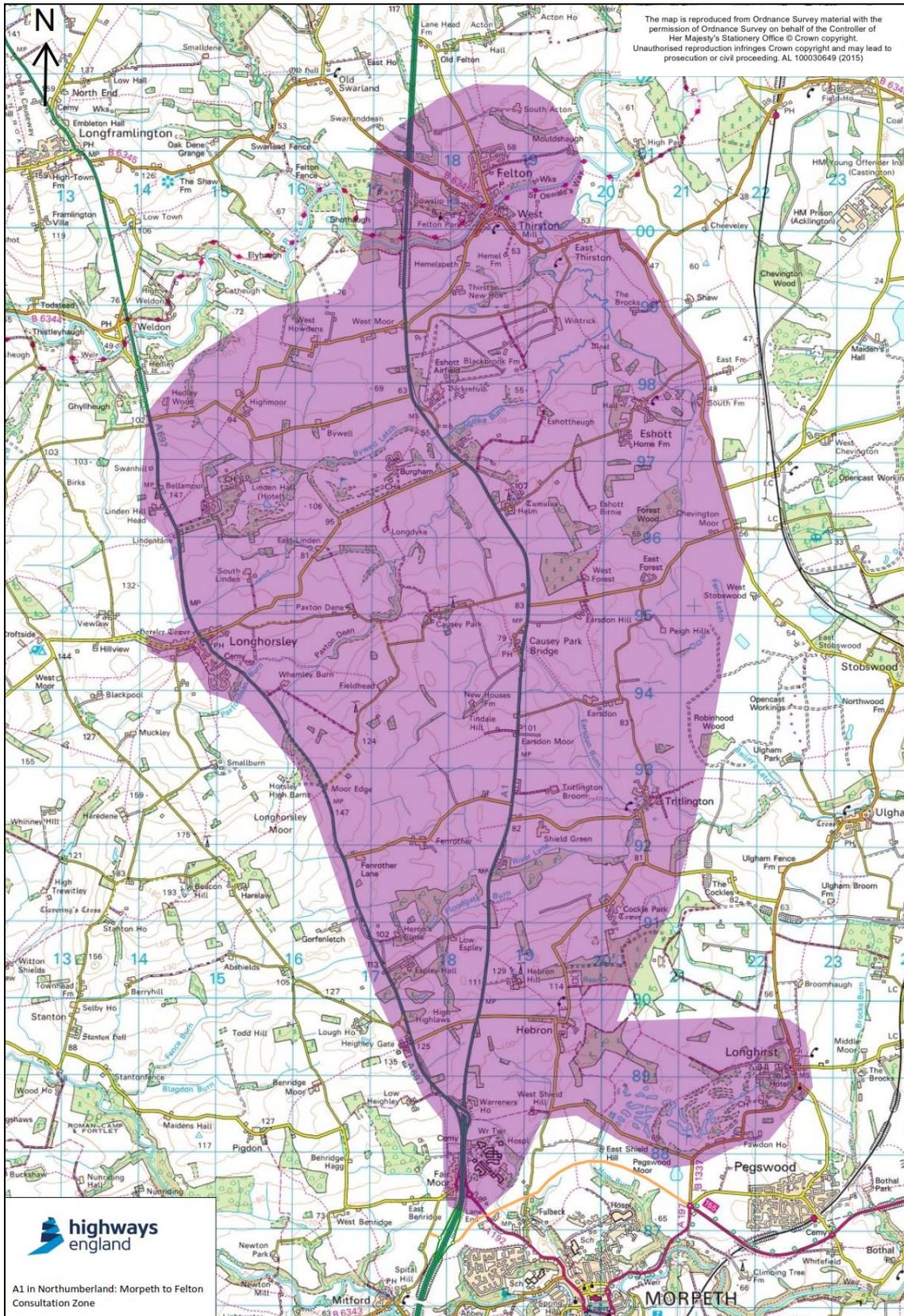
We need to collect and assess all responses to consultation before compiling the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, we must receive responses by the **23:59 on Sunday 29 July 2018**.

If you want to contact us or find out more about this scheme, you can:

- Visit the scheme webpage: [www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland](http://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A1inNorthumberland)
- E-mail us: [A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A1inNorthumberland@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- Call us: 0300 470 4585
- Write to us: Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL, A1 in Northumberland project team, 3rd Floor South, Highways England, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT

Date: 09 May 2018

# Appendix 1 – Consultation zone



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## **Appendix 2 – Local Authorities**

Local Authorities affected by the scheme: Northumberland County Council

Adjoining Local Authorities: (Northumberland National Park Authority, Scottish Borders Authority, Carlisle District Council, Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council, County Durham Council, Newcastle upon Tyne City Council, North Tyneside Council, and Gateshead Council).

## **Appendix 3 - Documents to be made available for inspection at inspection locations listed at section:**

- Map of route
- Plans of the scheme
- Previous consultation report
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)
- PEIR non-technical summary
- Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)