

# Regional Investment Programme A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet Junction Improvements Statement of Community Consultation



February 2018

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 Highways England is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in connection with proposed improvements to the A2 at the Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions (the Scheme). 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.

## 2. The Application

2.1 Highways England is developing this Scheme under the Planning Act 2008 and is publishing this statement under Section 47 of that Act. Highways England has consulted with Kent County Council, Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council, and Ebbsfleet Development Corporation as the local authorities responsible for the area where the project will be built, about plans to consult the local community.

2.2 The Planning Act 2008 requires Highways England to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build the Scheme. The Secretary of State'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 submitted in autumn 2018. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the Scheme should go ahead.

2.3 Whilst the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's requirements of the planning system, 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. More information road infrastructure projects can be found on the Government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/.../national-networks-national-policy-statement>

## 2.4 The six steps to the application process are:

- a. Pre-application – statutory consultation
- b. Acceptance – the Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to decide if the application meets the required standards to proceed to ‘examination’
- c. Pre- examination
  - You can register as an interested party and be kept informed of progress and opportunities to put your case forward
  - Inspectors will hold a Preliminary Meeting and set the timetable for examination
- d. Examination
  - You can send in your comments in writing and request to speak at a public hearing
  - The Inspectorate has 6 months to carry out the examination
- e. Decision
  - A recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State will be issued by the Inspectorate within 3 months
  - The Secretary of State has a further 3 months to issue a decision on the proposal
- f. Post- decision – there is the opportunity for legal challenge

2.5 When Highways England submits its DCO application, the Secretary of State 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: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000. More information about the Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements can be found on Highways England’s website: [www.highways.gov.uk/a2be](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2be)

## 3. The Scheme

3.1 In December 2014, the Department for Transport published its Road Investment Strategy (RIS) for 2015-2020. The RIS sets out the list of schemes that are to be delivered by Highways England over the period covered by the RIS (2015 - 2020). The RIS identified improvements to the A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions as one of the key investments in the Strategic Road Network for the London and south east region.

3.2 The A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions are situated on the A2 trunk road, approximately 1.2 miles apart (2km) within north Kent. The Bean junction connects the A296 and B255 and provides access to the Bluewater regional shopping centre, the A2, Crossways Business Park, Darent Valley Hospital and the wider area and is particularly busy at weekends. The Ebbsfleet junction serves the wider area and Ebbsfleet International Rail Station, connects the A2 to the A2260 and will also provide access to the new and ongoing developments.

3.3 Highways England has considered a number of options for both junctions. Following a detailed review of these proposals, we concluded that there is one option for each junction which meets the Scheme objectives:

- The proposed Bean junction improvements broadly follow the existing road layout but with an additional bridge over the A2 adjacent to the existing bridge and a new slip road on to the A2 for eastbound traffic. It retains the existing junction layout but with the current roundabouts enlarged and converted to traffic signal control. A new bridge over the A2 for southbound traffic is provided to the east of the existing Bean Lane Overbridge, which is retained for northbound traffic.
- The proposed Ebbsfleet junction improvements broadly follow the existing road layout but with the existing roundabouts enlarged and with traffic signal control. Access is provided at the junctions to the new and ongoing developments. The link road between the roundabouts is widened from the existing single carriageway to a dual two-lane carriageway. The existing eastbound and westbound slip roads from the A2 are retained. The eastbound and westbound slip roads to the A2 are widened.

3.4 The Delivery Plan indicates that Highways England expects to start construction in 2020.

3.5 The Bean and Ebbsfleet junctions will need to accommodate new developments and the wider growth planned in the area:

- The Ebbsfleet Garden City development will create up to 15,000 new homes and more than 30,000 jobs could be created. This development is already underway. (Source: Ebbsfleet Development Corporation).
- Growth in Dartford is taking place already (excluding Ebbsfleet): 3,438 houses have been built in the last five years; a further 340 are under construction; and 8,900 have been granted permission (April 2017). Most of these houses are situated north of the A2 and east of Dartford town centre, and will use Bean junction.

3.6 Traffic modelling has indicated that without improvements to both junctions, the road network will become highly congested resulting in considerable delays and associated environmental issues. The developments and planned growth will result in traffic using the A2 Bean junction (including the A296) increasing by 50-60% during weekday and weekend peak periods by 2037 compared to 2014 traffic levels. They will also result in traffic using the A2 Ebbsfleet junction increasing between 170 – 200% during weekday peak periods by 2037 compared to 2014 traffic levels.

3.7 This Statement of Community Consultation relates to A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme and is not a consultation exercise for any other road schemes in this area. The Scheme takes account of proposed locally consented growth but does not include the London Resort Company Holdings (LRCH)

proposals for their development on the Swanscombe peninsula. LRCH are preparing to submit a separate DCO application for their development including their plans for the Ebbsfleet junction and currently plan to undertake a separate public consultation in the second quarter of 2018.

#### **4. Consulting the community**

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

4.2 Between January and March 2017, Highways England consulted the local community and statutory consultees on the options at each junction. More details of previous consultation exercise and the outcomes are included in the Stage 2 Report on Public Consultation available:

- on request from Highways England
- from the Highways England consultation website [www.highways.gov.uk/a2be](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2be)
- and for the duration of this consultation period at the locations listed below in Pt.22 of this Statement of Community Consultation.

4.3 We want to make sure that the local community, the residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users can fully understand the Scheme and comment on our proposals. To do this we are holding a six-week public consultation between February and April 2018, during which we will provide consultation information on various issues including:

- Preferred option for the junction layouts
- Scheme objectives
- Overall impacts of the Scheme
- Environmental assessments and potential environmental impacts
- Environmental mitigation measures
- Arrangements during construction of the Scheme.

4.4 We have listened to statutory consultees who requested we broaden the geographical scope of the exhibition venues. Following research into their suggestions, we are proposing to hold public information exhibitions at six venues, which are outlined below in Section 20.

- The requirement for certain projects to report their effects on the environment is derived from EU legislation and adopted into UK legislation notably the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the related Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Due to the likelihood of significant environmental effects a statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required to be undertaken to inform the Scheme and an Environment Statement will report on the likely significant effects taking into account mitigation measures. To inform the statutory consultation, we will be publishing a report on the preliminary environmental information, potential environmental effects of the Scheme and possible measures proposed to reduce more effects. We will be seeking views on the information contained in the report.

- At the same time as consulting the local community we will also consult a wide range of statutory consultees in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act, which include:
  - The host and neighbouring local authorities including Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
  - Statutory bodies (such as Environment Agency)
  - People with an interest in land that might be affected by the Scheme.

4.5 Our public consultation will begin on 21 February 2018 and run for six weeks. The full details are outlined in this table:

Method	Detail
<b>Public Information Exhibition</b>	<p>Public information exhibitions will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 21 February 2018, 2pm – 6pm Heritage Community Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP</li> <li>• Saturday 24 February 2018, 10am – 3pm Bean Youth and Community Centre, High Street, Bean, Dartford, DA2 8AS</li> <li>• Saturday 3 March 2018, 9am – 9pm Bluewater Shopping Centre, Dartford, DA9 9ST</li> <li>• Saturday 10 March 2018, 10am – 3pm Eastgate, Springhead Parkway, Northfleet, DA11 8AD</li> <li>• Thursday 15 March 2018, 7am – 9am / 3pm – 7pm Ebbsfleet International Station, Dartford, DA10 1EB</li> <li>• Saturday 17 March 2018, 10am – 2pm Stone Pavilion, Hayes Road, Stone, DA9 9DS</li> </ul> <p>The exhibitions will be held over a six-week period from 21 February – 4 April 2018. They will give people an opportunity to view Scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide comments.</p> <p>The public will be informed of the exhibition through channels including advertisements in appropriate local newspapers, via our website, the media, direct communications and project updates.</p> <p>A public information event for statutory consultees will be held on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wednesday 21 February 2018, 12pm – 2pm Heritage Community Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe, DA10 0LP</li> </ul>

	<p>The Media will be invited on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wednesday 21 February 2018, 10.30am – 12pm Heritage Community Hall, Craylands Lane, Swanscombe DA10 0LP</li> </ul> <p>Feedback forms will be available at the exhibition events for members of the public to record their comments and these can either be left with the project team and/or sent back separately via the address noted below.</p>
<b>Project website</b>	<p>A full summary of the project, copies of the supporting project documents and a feedback form will be provided on a dedicated project website: <a href="http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2be">www.highways.gov.uk/a2be</a></p> <p>This website will be updated on the morning of the first day of the public consultation.</p>
<b>Project summary leaflet</b>	<p>A letter with details of the public information exhibitions will be delivered to approximately 90,000 homes and businesses in the consultation zone shown in Appendix 1.</p>
<b>Council and community / area forum briefings</b>	<p>Local councils and community / area forums within whose area the Scheme will be carried out will be offered briefings to discuss the proposal including local forums as advised by local authorities.</p>
<b>Stakeholder Forum briefings</b>	<p>When invited, and where it is possible to do so, the project team will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal.</p>
<b>Establishing Stakeholder Groups</b>	<p>Having built a relationship with the local community, we will consider, in consultation with relevant town and parish councils and community / area forums, whether there is benefit in establishing a stakeholder group, to which we would invite local community nominated representatives to discuss our proposals. If a similar stakeholder group is already in existence or established by the relevant local authorities, we will participate when invited.</p>
<b>Road Users</b>	<p>As well as e-mailing road users registered with us we will be working with road user groups to publicise our consultation and using social media to reach road users.</p>
<b>Hard to reach groups</b>	<p>We will be working with our local authority partners to ensure our consultation is wide reaching. Making greater use of social media is part of the approach to increasing the response from all groups.</p>
<b>Project updates</b>	<p>At the launch of the consultation and at the point at which Highways England submits the DCO application, project updates will be produced, providing details on the proposals and reporting on the outcome of the consultation process respectively. These will be distributed to residents</p>

	and community groups via the project leaflets mentioned above, by e-mail to road users who have registered for further communications on our website, and to Town Councils and community / area forums who wish to receive them. Copies will be made available on our website and provided on request by the project team.
<b>Consultation feedback</b>	Written comments can be made either online at <a href="http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2be">www.highways.gov.uk/a2be</a> or in writing to: Freepost A2BE Public Consultation
<b>Press advertising</b>	Adverts will be placed in local newspapers at the launch of the consultation and reminders will be placed ahead of the exhibition events. The consultation will be advertised in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravesham and Dartford Messenger (two weeks)</li> <li>• London Gazette (one week)</li> <li>• The Times (one week)</li> </ul>
<b>Media</b>	A media pack will be written outlining media choice and including a Press Release with details of the consultation and how the community and road users can participate. Highways England Press office will invite key media outlets to the media event.
<b>Posters</b>	Posters will be distributed throughout the community to locations including brochure deposit points, community halls and parish councils.
<b>Social Media</b>	The consultation will be advertised on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways England: Twitter feed - @HighwaysSEAST</li> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council: Twitter and Facebook</li> <li>• Ebbsfleet Development Corporation: Facebook</li> <li>• Dartford Borough Council: Twitter</li> </ul>

4.6 Any activities that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control will be substituted with similar activities.

## 5. Documents available for inspection

5.1 Scheme summary information, this updated Statement of Community Consultation, 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.highways.gov.uk/a2be](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2be) and will be available to view, free of charge during the consultation, at the inspection locations listed below:

Location	Opening times
Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre Home Gardens Dartford	Monday 8.45am - 5.15pm Tuesday 8.45am - 5.15pm Wednesday 8.45am - 5.15pm

DA1 1DR	Thursday 8.45am - 5.15pm Friday 8.45am - 4.45pm
Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council The Groves Swanscombe DA10 0GA	Monday 9.30am - 4.00pm Tuesday 9.30am - 4.00pm Wednesday by appointment Thursday 9.30am - 4.00pm Friday 9.30am - 4.00pm

## 5.2 Public consultation brochures and survey questionnaires will be available at:

Location	Opening times
Bean Youth and Community Centre High Street Bean Dartford DA2 8AS	Monday 9.00am–10.00pm Tuesday 9.00am–10.00pm Wednesday 9.00am–10.00pm Thursday 9.00am–10.00pm Friday 9.00am–10.00pm Saturday 9.00am–8.00pm Sunday 9.00am–8.00pm
Greenhithe Library 45 London Road Greenhithe DA9 9EJ	Tuesday 1.00pm - 5.30pm Thursday 1.00pm - 5.30pm Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Fleetdown Library Swaledale Road Dartford DA2 6JZ	Tuesday 9.30am - 5.30pm Wednesday 1.30pm - 5.30pm Thursday 9.30am - 5.30pm Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm
Longfield Library 49 Main Road Longfield DA3 7QT	Tuesday 1.00pm - 6.00pm Wednesday 9.00am - 1.00pm Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm Friday 1.00pm - 6.00pm Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm
Swan Valley Library Swanscombe Library Discovery Centre Southfleet Road Swanscombe DA10 0BZ	Monday 10.00am - 2.00pm Tuesday 10.00am - 2.00pm Wednesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm Friday 1.00pm - 5.00pm Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm
Temple Hill Community Centre Temple Hill Square Dartford DA1 5HY	Monday 8.30am – 5pm Tuesday 8.30am – 5pm Wednesday 8.30am – 5pm Thursday 8.30am – 5pm Friday 8.30am – 5pm
Coldharbour Road Library 3 Coldharbour Road Northfleet DA11 8AE	Monday 9.00am - 6.00pm Tuesday 9.00am - 8.00pm Wednesday 9.00am - 6.00pm Thursday 9.00am - 6.00pm Friday 9.00am - 6.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Hive House Library Hive House Northfleet DA11 9DE	Monday 9.00am - 12.30pm Tuesday 9.00am - 12.30pm Thursday 2.00pm - 5.00pm Friday 2.00pm - 5.00pm Saturday 10.00am - 2.00pm
Gravesend Library Windmill Street Gravesend DA12 IBE	Monday 9:00am – 6.00pm Tuesday 9:00am – 6.00pm Wednesday 9:00am – 6.00pm Thursday 9:00am – 6.00pm Friday 9:00am – 6.00pm Saturday 9:00am – 5.00pm
Gravesend Borough Council Civic Centre Windmill Street Gravesend DA12 1AU	Monday 9.00am – 5.00pm Tuesday 9.00am – 5.00pm Wednesday 9.00am – 5.00pm Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
County Hall Maidstone Kent ME14 1XQ	Monday 8:00am – 6.00pm Tuesday 8:00am – 6.00pm Wednesday 8:00am – 6.00pm Thursday 8:00am – 6.00pm Friday 8:00am – 6.00pm
Stone Pavilion Hayes Road Stone Greenhithe DA9 9DS	Monday 9.00am – 5.00pm Tuesday 9.00am – 5.00pm Wednesday 9.00am – 5.00pm Thursday 9.00am – 5.00pm Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 9.00am – 5.00pm Sunday 10.00am – 4.00pm

## 6. Next steps

6.1 Comments made during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account in developing the Scheme. An explanation of how comments received have shaped and influenced our Scheme 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 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.

6.2 Highways England need to collect and assess all responses to consultation before compiling the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, it must receive feedback by Wednesday 4 April 2018.

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

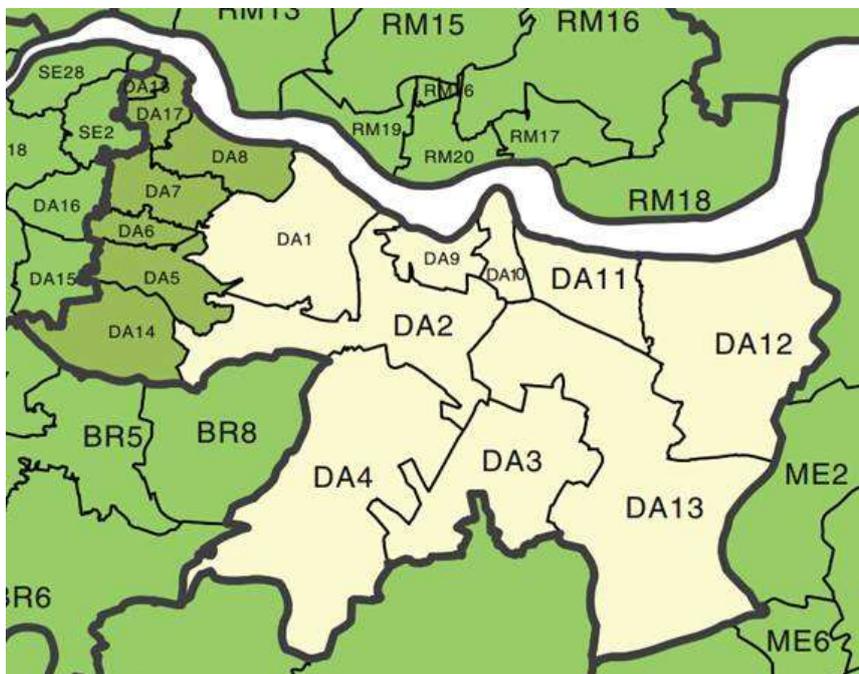
- Visit the scheme webpage: [www.highways.gov.uk/a2be](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a2be)
- E-mail us: [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- Call us: 0300 123 5000
- Write to us: Freepost A2BE Public Consultation

- Visit:
  - Kent County Council website: [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)
  - Dartford Borough Council website: [www.dartford.gov.uk](http://www.dartford.gov.uk)
  - Gravesham Borough Council website: [www.gravesham.gov.uk](http://www.gravesham.gov.uk)
  - Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council website:  
<http://swanscombeandgreenhithetowncouncil.gov.uk>
  - Ebbsfleet Development Corporation website: <http://ebbsfleetdc.org.uk/>

# Appendices

## Appendix 1 – Consultation zone

Map of proposed resident letter distribution area



Within each postcode boundary shown in the map above, residential and business premises in the following postcodes will receive a letter informing them of the public consultation:

- **DA1 1** Dartford, Kent
- **DA1 2** Dartford, Kent
- **DA1 3** Dartford, Kent
- **DA1 5** Dartford, Kent
- **DA2 6** Dartford, Kent
- **DA2 7** Dartford, Kent
- **DA2 8** Dartford, Kent
- **DA3 7** Longfield, Kent
- **DA3 8** Longfield, Kent
- **DA4 9** Dartford, Kent
- **DA9 9** Greenhithe, Kent
- **DA10 0** Swanscombe, Kent
- **DA10 1** Swanscombe, Kent
- **DA11 0** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA11 7** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA11 8** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA11 9** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA12 1** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA12 2** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA12 4** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA12 5** Gravesend, Kent
- **DA13 9** Gravesend, Kent

## Appendix 2 – Local authorities

### Statutory authorities affected by the Scheme

- Kent County Council
- Dartford Borough Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

### Town and parish councils

- Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council
- Bean Parish Council
- Stone Parish Council
- Southfleet Parish Council

### Adjoining local authorities

- Greater London Authority
- Thurrock Council
- Surrey County Council
- London Borough of Bromley
- London Borough Bexley
- Medway Council
- Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
- Sevenoaks District Council

### Other

- Transport for London

**Appendix 3 - Documents to be made available for inspection at inspection locations listed in section 16:**

- Scheme brochure
- Survey questionnaire
- Map of route
- Plans of the Scheme
- Statement of Community Consultation
- Notice of application
- Previous consultation feedback reports
- Options Report
- Needs case
- Scheme factsheet
- The Planning Act fact sheet
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report

***Please note: this Statement of Community Consultation relates to A2 Bean and Ebbsfleet junction improvements scheme and is not a consultation exercise for any other road schemes in this area.***

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