

# A27 Arundel Bypass

Further Public Consultation  
Planning Policy Summary

# 1. Introduction

This summary describes the planning context in which the A27 Arundel Bypass scheme would be considered. It also provides an overview of the legislation and planning policy that is relevant to the scheme.

## 2. What is the government's vision for the national transport network?

The National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) sets out the need and Government's policies to deliver the development of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) on the national road and rail networks in England, as defined by the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). The PA2008 requires the Secretary of State to determine the application in accordance with the NPSNN.

The NPSNN states that the Government will deliver national transport networks that meet the country's long-term needs; supporting a prosperous and competitive economy and improving overall quality of life, as part of a wider transport system. This means creating road networks which:

- Have the capacity, connectivity and resilience to support growth and create jobs
- Support and improve journey quality, reliability and safety
- Support the delivery of environmental goals and the move to a low carbon economy
- Join up our communities and link effectively to each other

The Road Investment Strategy (2015) prepared by the Department of Transport and Highways England specifies the need for a number of major projects – including the A27 Arundel Bypass – to upgrade and improve England's strategic road network so that it can deliver the performance needed to support the nation in the 21st century.

### 3. What are Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)?

The thresholds for nationally significant road, rail and strategic rail freight infrastructure projects are defined in the PA2008 as amended by the Highways and Railway (Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project) Order 2013.

This scheme involves the construction, improvement or alteration of a highway (which is the responsibility of the Secretary of State, via Highways England, as the Highways Authority). The scheme lies wholly within England and will exceed the qualifying thresholds set out in section 22 of the PA2008, and therefore meets the definitions of an NSIP, irrespective of the option taken forward. An NSIP can only be delivered if it has received planning consent through a Development Consent Order (DCO) from (in this instance) the Secretary of State for Transport, after examination by the appointed Examining Authority.

A DCO is a type of planning permission which provides consent for the construction and operation of the NSIP, whilst also combining other powers sometimes required to develop complex infrastructure schemes, such as those required to compulsorily purchase land. For more details on the compulsory purchase process, please refer to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-property-and-highways-england-road-proposals>

Powers granted can be either temporary or permanent, with examples including the ability to extinguish and divert public rights of way, removal or diversion of utilities or making changes to speed limits.

## 4. How will the scheme be determined / what are the steps involved?

An application for a DCO under the PA2008 requires statutory public consultation (in accordance with sections 42, 47 and 48) before the application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. The statutory public consultation on the preferred route of the scheme, currently planned for late 2020, will be carried out in addition to this consultation.

Following the statutory consultation, we will then prepare and submit the DCO planning application with the Planning Inspectorate. An appointed Examining Authority will carry out a six-month examination in public, where they hear evidence from a range of sources to inform their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport.

The final decision on the scheme will be made by the Secretary of State for Transport, who will consider the following factors:

- National planning policy
- The impacts and benefits of the scheme (which will include local impacts and local policy matters)
- Legal and international obligations

More information on the planning process is available from National Infrastructure Planning at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.