

## Introduction

1. Highways England is publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) in connection with a proposed improvement to the A63 between Ropery Street and the Market Place/Queen Street junction, known as the A63 Castle Street Improvements Project (the Project). The purpose of this document is to set out how Highways England will consult the local community, residents, businesses, organisations and visitors to the area about its proposal. The document also provides background to the project, details where further information can be obtained or viewed, explains how comments on the proposal can be made, and sets out how the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will progress.
2. Consultation on this Project has taken place previously in 2009 and in 2013, but due to the elapse of time, and changes to some elements of the Project, Highways England is carrying out a further consultation.

## The Application

3. Developments of the nature of the Project are defined as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). As a result, Highways England is required to secure a DCO pursuant to the Act in order to construct the Project. An application for a DCO will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate who will examine it and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Transport on whether a DCO should be granted. The Secretary of State will make the final decision on whether a DCO should be granted.
4. The Government has published National Policy Statements (NPS) which set out the policy against which the Secretary of State will make decisions on applications for development consent for NSIPs. The 'National Networks' NPS includes policy for road networks.
5. This statement is being made in accordance with section 47 of the Act.
6. Highways England is required to consult on its proposals before submitting an application for a DCO. Pre-application consultation is an important opportunity to provide feedback on the scheme, and as part of the examination process the Planning Inspectorate will consider whether Highway England's consultation has been adequate. Highways England has consulted with Hull City Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council (the local authorities responsible for the areas in which the Project will be built) about its plans for consultation of the local communities... Highways England has had regard to these comments in designing the consultation programme for the Project.
7. This additional statutory consultation follows an extensive exercise carried out in 2013. It will update the public on progress made and will provide an opportunity for further public comment which will be taken into account by Highways England in the formulation of its DCO application.

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

## The Project

8. Highways England is proposing to relieve congestion and provide better access to the Port of Hull by improving the A63 between the St James Street/Porter Street junctions and the Market Place/Queen Street junctions. The route currently experiences severe congestion, particularly around the Mytongate junction due to the traffic signals and high proportion of heavy goods vehicles. The objectives of the Project are to:

- reduce traffic congestion;
- improve access to the port;
- improve safety for road users and the local community; and
- reduce severance between the city centre and businesses, residential areas and the leisure facilities to the south of the A63 Castle Street.

The Project is approximately 0.9 miles long and the main aspects are:

- improving the Mytongate junction by lowering the A63 by approximately 7 metres and raising Ferensway/Commercial Road by approximately 1 metre to cross the A63 on a new bridge;
- widening the eastbound carriageway between Princes Dock Street junction and Market Place to three lanes;
- removing existing signalised pedestrian crossings and providing two new pedestrian bridges suitable for cyclists and disabled users;
- replacing the existing signalised crossing at Market Place by upgrading an existing route that runs underneath the A63 from High Street to Blackfriargate to allow access underneath Castle Street;
- changes to side roads and local property access to improve safety; and
- providing a localised diversion of third-party utilities that currently cross beneath the existing A63.

## Consulting the community

9. In accordance with section 47 of the Act, Highways England will consult people, businesses and organisations in the vicinity of the Project and those that use the existing road.
10. Highways England wants to make sure that the local community, residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users, have the opportunity to fully understand the Project and comment on its proposals. To do this Highways England are therefore holding a four week public consultation starting on **Monday 16 January 2017** and ending on **13 February 2017**. Our consultation materials will provide information on the proposed layout, junction and access

arrangements and will include design development since the last consultation carried out in 2013.

11. The project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended). An Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application and, in accordance with regulation 10, Highways England will provide updated preliminary environmental information, based on the scoping report produced in 2013, which will form part of the consultation materials. The preliminary environmental information will present environmental information that has been collected to date and will indicate the mitigation measures that Highways England expects to implement in order to minimise any negative effects.
12. All comments received from the public will be considered and will influence, where possible and appropriate, any further refinements to the Project and Highways England's approach to environmental mitigation.

### How we will consult

13. Highways England will be using a range of methods during the consultation period to ensure that the local community has an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals. This will include:

| Method  | Detail  |
|---|---|
| <b>Statutory Public Consultation Exhibition</b> | <p>A statutory public consultation exhibition will be held at <b>The Mercure Royal Hotel, 170 Ferensway, Hull, HU1 3UF</b> on <b>Friday 27 January 2017</b> from 12.30 to 20.00 and <b>Saturday 28 January 2017</b> from 10.00 to 16.00.</p> <p>The exhibition will give people an opportunity to view Project 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, leaflet drops and project updates.</p> <p>A number of copies of the full suite of consultation documents will be available at this exhibition.</p> <p>Questionnaires will be available at the exhibition events for members of the public to record their comments and these can either</p> |

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|   | be left with the project team and/or sent back separately via the address noted below.  |
| <b>Project website</b>                              | A full suite of consultation materials, including consultation leaflet, the scheme layout plan, the PEI, the SoCC and a Section 48 notice, summary of the Project, copies of the supporting project documents and a questionnaire will be provided on a dedicated project website:<br><a href="http://www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet">www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet</a>                                    |
| <b>Council and community / area forum briefings</b> | Local councils and community / area forums within whose area the Project would be located will be offered briefings to discuss the proposal.  |
| <b>Stakeholder Form briefings</b>                   | When invited, and where it is possible to do so, the project team will attend meetings of local community groups affected by the Project.   |
| <b>Establishing Stakeholder Groups</b>              | Having built a relationship with the local community, we will consider, in consultation with relevant town and parish councils, community / area forums and stakeholder groups, to which we would invite local community nominated representatives to discuss the Project. If a similar stakeholder group is already in existence or established by the relevant Local Authorities, we will participate when invited. |
| <b>Consultation feedback</b>                        | Written comments can be made in writing to the following address:<br><br>A63 Castle Street Improvement Project Team<br>Highways England<br>Lateral<br>8 City Walk<br>Leeds<br>LS11 9AT<br><br>Or via email at:<br><a href="mailto:a63CastleStreet.Hull@highwaysengland.co.uk">a63CastleStreet.Hull@highwaysengland.co.uk</a>  |
| <b>Media</b>  | The consultation will be advertised in the Hull Daily Mail. Adverts will be placed in local venues, for example, libraries, prior to the launch of the consultation. A Press release detailing the consultation and how the community and road users can participate will   |

be issued.

### Documents available for inspection

14. The full suite of consultation materials, including consultation leaflet, the scheme layout plan, the PEI, the SoCC and a Section 48 notice will be available online at [www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet) and will be available to view, free of charge during the consultation, at the inspection locations listed below:

| Location  | Viewing Times  |
|---|--|
| Hull Central Library<br>Albion Street<br>Hull<br>HU1 3FT<br>Tel: 01482 210000   | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,<br>Friday and Saturday :<br>10.00 – 17.00<br>Sunday :13.30 – 16.30         |
| Bransholme Library<br>Northpoint Shopping Centre<br>Goodhart Road<br>Bransholme<br>Hull<br>HU7 4EF<br>Tel: 01482 331234 | Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 09.30 –<br>12.30 and 13.30 – 17.00<br>Saturday: 10:00 – 13.00                      |
| Ings Library<br>Savoy Road<br>Hull<br>HU8 0TY<br>Tel: 01482 331250  | Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 09.30 -<br>13:00<br>Tuesday and Thursday: 14:00 – 18:00<br>Saturday: 10:00 – 13.00 |
| Gipsyville Library<br>728 – 730 Hessle High Road<br>Hull<br>HU4 6JA<br>Tel: 01482 616973                                | Monday and Friday: 09:00 – 17.00<br>Wednesday : 10.00 – 18.00<br>Saturday: 10.00 – 13.00                         |
| Avenues Library<br>76 Chanterlands Avenue<br>Hull<br>HU5 3TS<br>Tel: 01482 331280                                       | Monday and Friday: 09:30 – 13:00<br>Tuesday and Thursday: 14:00 – 17:30<br>Saturday: 10:00 – 13:00               |
| Holy Trinity Church<br>10 King Street<br>Hull<br>HU1 2JJ  | Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 11:00 –<br>15:00<br>Friday and Saturday: 10.00 – 16:00<br>Sunday: 09:00 – 15:00 |
| Hull City Council, Guildhall<br>Hull<br>HU1 2AA<br>Tel: 01482 300 300   | Monday – Friday<br>09.00-17.00   |
| Highways England<br>Lateral<br>8 City Walk<br>Leeds<br>LS11 9AT<br>Tel: 0300 470 2450                                   | Monday to Friday<br>09.00 – 17.00  |

### Next steps

15. Comments made during the consultation will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England when further developing the scheme proposal. An explanation of how 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 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.

16. Highways England needs to collect and assess all responses to consultation before compiling the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, Highways England asks for feedback to be submitted by the close of statutory consultation on **13 February 2017**.

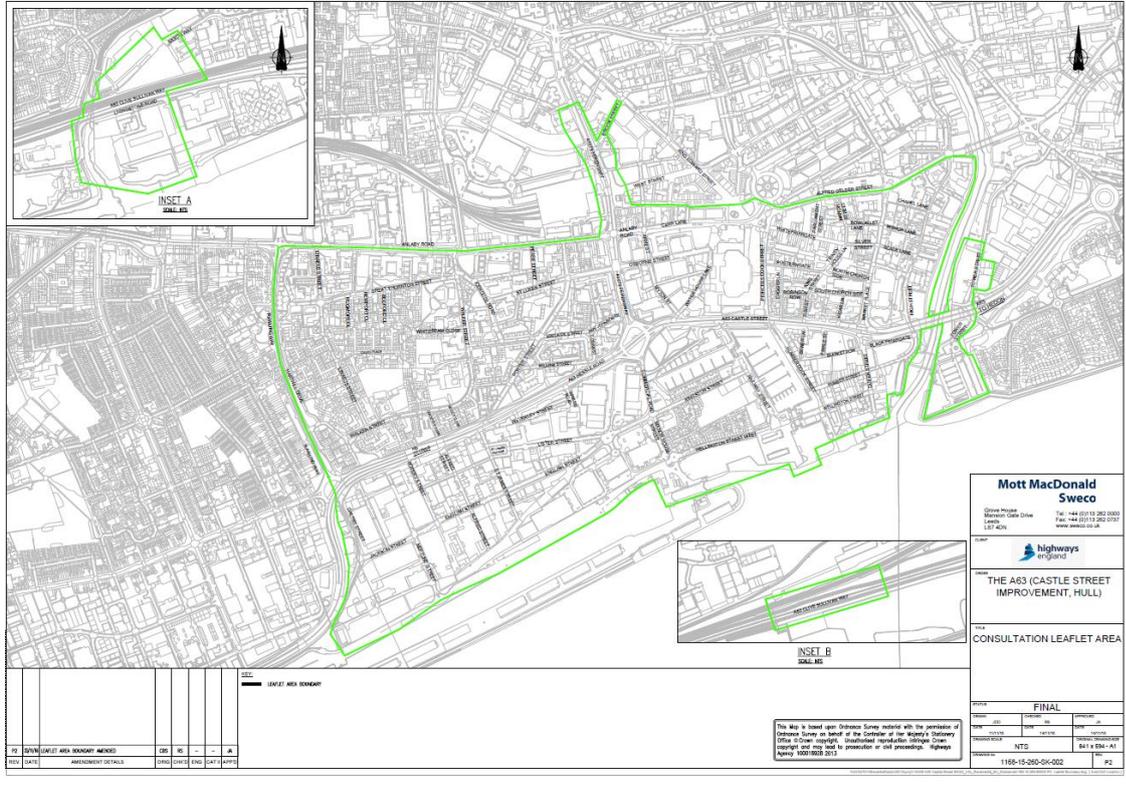
17. If you want to contact us or find out more about this scheme, you can:

- Visit the scheme webpage: [www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet](http://www.highways.gov.uk/a63castlestreet)
- E-mail us: [a63CastleStreet.Hull@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:a63CastleStreet.Hull@highwaysengland.co.uk)
- Call us: 0300 470 2450
- Write to us: A63 Castle Street Improvement Project Team, Highways England, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT

Date: January 2017

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Consultation zone



### Appendix 2 – Local Authorities

Local Authorities affected by the scheme:

Hull City Council  
East Riding of Yorkshire Council

Adjoining Local Authorities:

North Lincolnshire Council

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

Consultation leaflet  
Scheme layout plan  
Preliminary Environment Information  
Statement of Community Consultation  
Section 48 notice