

Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)

We operate, maintain and improve England's motorways and major A-roads. The M25 junction 28 improvement scheme is a critical part of our ongoing investment. It is a key connection between London and Chelmsford, Ipswich and Brentwood. It will play a vital role connecting the M25 with the A12, as well as providing local access to Brentwood via the A1023, which will bring benefits to the area.

We are publishing this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) to outline our approach to consulting with the local community for the above scheme. It provides details about how you (the local community) can take part and how feedback will be used to influence our proposed design.

To make sure we approach our statutory consultation in the very best way for the local community, we've consulted on this document with The London Borough of Havering, Brentwood Borough Council, Essex County Council and the Greater London Authority which are the local authorities in the area in which the scheme is proposed to be built and/or scheme may significantly impact.

This document also gives you the background to the scheme and how our application to build it will progress.

The scheme is being developed under the Planning Act 2008 and we are publishing this statement under Section 47 (duty to consult local community) of that Act.

Under the Planning Act 2008, we are required to make an application to the Secretary of State (SoS) through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build this scheme. The Planning Inspectorate will examine our application and the SoS will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead based on a recommendation made by the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the scheme will be submitted in Autumn 2019.

A key consideration for the Planning Inspectorate and the SoS when assessing our DCO application is the National Networks National Policy Statement (NNNPS). The NNNPS sets out the need for development of road projects on the national networks, and is the policy against which decisions on major road projects will be made.

When we submit our application, the Planning Inspectorate must consider whether our consultation has been adequate.

The best time for you to have your say to inform our final design on this scheme is by taking part in this consultation.

You can find more information about the Planning Inspectorate and the Planning Act 2008 on their National Infrastructure Planning website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling the Planning Inspectorate on 0303 444 5000.

The scheme

Junction 28 on the M25 is heavily used and features a roundabout mainly controlled by traffic lights. Up to 7,500 vehicles per hour currently travel through the roundabout at peak times. It is already operating at capacity, with motorists regularly experiencing congestion and delays.

Our proposals for the junction include the following main key features:

- Introduce a second exit road from the M25 anti-clockwise carriageway onto the new loop road
- Create new two-lane loop road with hard shoulder, for traffic travelling from M25 to A12 eastbound
- Provide a bridge over the M25 anti-clockwise entry road to facilitate a new loop road
- Provide an overbridge at A12 eastbound exit road to allow the proposed loop road to join the A12 eastbound carriageway
- Our scheme design retains the existing access to Maylands Gold Course and Grove Farm
- Re-configuration of the lane markings and destination signing on the existing Brook Street roundabout.

We are carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the scheme. 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 (EIA) Regulations 2017 and the related Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Due to the likelihood of significant environmental effects a statutory 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 are publishing Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the consultation material. The report gives information about the potential environmental effects of the scheme and the measures proposed to reduce those effects.

The report will be available on the scheme webpage and hard copies will be available to view at the consultation events and the display locations listed in this SoCC.

Additional information about the scheme, including maps/plans and associated benefits, will also be included in our consultation brochure. Copies of the brochure will be available at local display and deposit locations, as well as consultation events and on the scheme webpage detailed in this SoCC during the consultation period.

Consulting the community and previous consultations

We have a two-step process for consultation.

We have already carried out the first round of non-statutory public consultation in the vicinity of the scheme. We consulted on our proposed options for the scheme design in November 2016 and January 2017.

Consultees were asked about their current travel habits, their views on if there was a need for the scheme, key concerns relating to junction improvements and their preferred option from the proposed route options.

We held six public consultation exhibitions and 228 respondents completed questionnaires, results showed:

- 92% agreed there was a need for improvement overall
- Key concerns relating to junction improvements were around congestion (96%), limited capacity (80%), road safety (82%) and construction (76%)
- 49% supported Option 5F over Option 5B (17%) and Option 5C (12%).

More details, including the results of this consultation and how we decided to progress Option 5F are included in the *Public Consultation Report* and *Preferred Route Announcement leaflet*, available to download from www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m25j28, on request or will be available to view for the duration of the consultation period at local display locations.

Next consultation – why and when

It is important to us that our statutory consultation will:

- Enable members of the public to influence our proposals
- Provide the opportunity to give feedback on potential options
- Encourage the community to help shape our proposals to maximise local benefits and minimise any impacts
- Help local people understand the potential nature and local impact of our proposals
- Enable potential mitigation measures to be considered and, if appropriate, incorporated into the scheme design before an application is submitted
- Identify ways in which our proposals, without significant costs, support wider strategic or local objectives.

Your comments will help us achieve these objectives. We will listen to and consider everyone's views before we submit our DCO application.

The second consultation (statutory) will run for eight weeks, from Monday 03 December 2018 until Monday 28 January 2019. During this consultation period, we will be consulting on the following particular elements of the scheme:

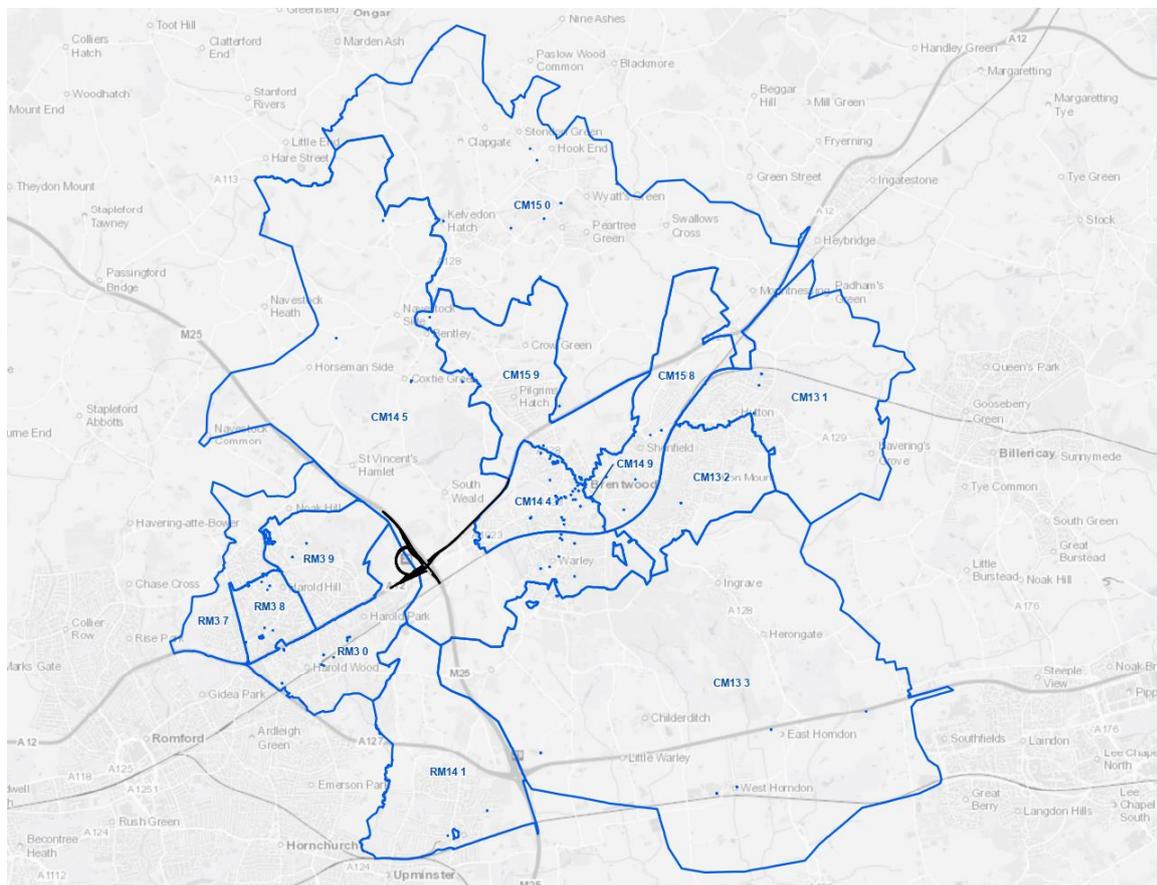
- Respondents current travel habits around the junction
- The need for an improvement scheme
- Suitability of Option 5F with regard to congestion, safety and the environment
- Environmental assessments and potential environmental impacts
- Environmental mitigation measures.

Working with The London Borough of Havering, Brentwood Borough Council, Essex County Council and the Greater London Authority we have developed a consultation target area for the distribution of our consultation materials. This is based on who we think will be affected by our proposed design. We'll let people living/working in this area know about our consultation by posting information in advance.

Our consultation target area will include the following postcodes:

RM3 0
 RM3 7
 RM3 8
 RM3 9
 RM14 1
 CM13
 CM14
 CM15

See our map below that outlines these, with our proposed scheme outlined in black.



Who can take part?

Anyone who is interested in this scheme is welcome to take part. We welcome all views and will take them into account to help before we submit our final design.

How will we consult?

We will use the following methods to promote our statutory consultation:

Method	Detail
Consultation events	<p>Consultation events at local venues where members of the project team will be available to answer questions about the proposals. Visitors to the consultation events will be able to submit their consultation responses if they choose to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 05 December 2018, 1pm to 9pm – Holiday Inn, Brentwood CM14 5NF • Thursday 06 December 2018, 9am to 8pm – Holiday Inn, Brentwood CM14 5NF • Tuesday 11 December 2018, 9am to 9pm – CEME Conference Centre Marsh Way, Rainham, Havering RM13 8EU • Monday 17 December 2018, 1pm to 9pm – MyPlace, 343 Dagnam Park, Romford RM3 9EN • Tuesday 08 January 2019, 9am to 9pm – YMCA, 29 Rush Green Road, Romford RM7 0PH • Saturday 12 January 2019, 1.30pm to 7pm – South Weald Parish Hall 85 London Road, Brentwood, CM14 4NP • Thursday 17 January 2019, 10.30 am to 9pm – Havering Town Hall, Romford, RM1 3BD • Friday 18 January 2019 9am to 8pm – Havering Town Hall, Romford, RM1 3BD

Method	Detail
	<p>There will also be some mobile consultation exhibitions in our consultation vehicle. These will be promoted locally and details will be available on our website www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m25j28</p>
Scheme webpage	<p>Consultation material including, a full summary of the scheme, this SoCC, the consultation brochure, consultation response form, Preliminary Environmental Information Report and non-technical summary, plan showing the extent of the scheme (red line boundary) will be available at: www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m25j28</p>
Consultation brochure and response form	<p>The consultation brochure contains details of the scheme and consultation events. We will deliver this to those living within the extent of the scheme (red line boundary) i.e. those whose land may be directly needed for the scheme.</p> <p>Flyers or letters will be sent to local people within the vicinity of the scheme, but will not be directly affected (no land take) by the scheme.</p> <p>Copies of both these documents will also be available to view at local display and deposit locations. The suite of documents will include a PEIR and a non-technical summary (more details below) which will set out environmental impacts and possible mitigation measures – all of which we'd like your views on.</p>
Council and community / area forum briefings	<p>Where possible we'll speak when invited to local Council forums and community / area forums affected or in the vicinity our scheme.</p>
Stakeholder briefings	<p>Where possible we'll attend when invited, meetings of local community groups affected by the proposal.</p>
Statutory notices	<p>Statutory notices to publicise the proposed DCO application and the SoCC will be issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed DCO application – once in a national newspaper and the London Gazette and twice in the Romford Recorder and the Brentwood Gazette. • Publicising the SoCC – once in the Romford Recorder and the Brentwood Gazette

Method	Detail
Media adverts & press releases	<p>We will also advertise the statutory consultation by placing media ads in locally circulating newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romford Recorder • Brentwood Gazette • Essex Chronicle <p>The adverts will promote the launch of the consultation period and include details of consultation events.</p> <p>Press releases detailing the consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will also be issued.</p>
Social media	<p>The statutory consultation will also be publicised on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook • Twitter

Any activity(s) that cannot be undertaken due to circumstances beyond our control (such as severe weather conditions) will be substituted with similar activity(s), where possible, and press releases will be circulated in the vicinity of the scheme to make people are aware of this.

How to respond to the consultation:

A consultation response form will be produced to help you provide comments on the scheme design. All consultation responses must be made in writing by:

- Completing the online response form at www.highwaysengland.co.uk/m25j28
- Attending a consultation event where you can meet the project team and complete a paper copy
- Picking up a hardcopy at one of our display or deposit locations which can be returned by posting to FREEPOST M25 junction 28 improvement scheme.

Alternatively, you can email info@highwaysengland.co.uk or write to us at FREEPOST M25 junction 28 improvement scheme.

All responses must be received by **11.59pm on Monday 28 January 2019**. Responses received after this date may not be considered.

Information available at and details of local display locations:

The documents listed below will be made available for your information to help inform your consultation response. They will be available to view free of charge at three display locations, during the consultation period:

- Scheme/route map showing the full extent of the scheme on a red line boundary plan
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report & non-technical summary

- Statutory notices in local and national press (Section 47 and Section 48 notice)
- Public consultation report summarising findings from the previous consultation
- Development Consent Order leaflet, explaining the process in more detail
- Scheme Assessment Report
- Technical Appraisal Report
- Statement of Community Consultation.

Display location	Opening times
Romford Central Library St Edwards Way Romford RM1 3AR	Monday – 10am to 8pm Tuesday – 9am to 5pm Wednesday – 9am to 5pm Thursday – 10am to 8pm Friday – 9am to 5pm Saturday – 10am to 4pm Sunday – Closed
Brentwood Library New Road Brentwood CM14 4BP	Monday – 9am to 6pm Tuesday – 9am to 6pm Wednesday – 9am to 1pm Thursday – 9am to 6pm Friday – 9am to 6pm Saturday – 9am to 5pm Sunday – Closed
Chelmsford Library County Hall Market Road Chelmsford CM1 1QH	Monday – 9am to 6.30pm Tuesday – 9am to 6.30pm Wednesday – 9am to 6.30pm Thursday – 9am to 6.30pm Friday – 9am to 6.30pm Saturday – 9am to 5.30pm Sunday – 1pm to 4pm

In addition to the above, the following locations will be deposit points where consultation brochures and response forms will be available to collect and takeaway:

- Havering Town Hall – Main Road, Romford RM1 3BD
- Chelmsford City Council (Customer Service Centre) – Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford CM1 1JE
- Central Park Leisure Centre – Gooshays Drive, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 9LB
- Upminster Library – 26 Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2BB
- Old Harlow Library – 30 High Street, Old Harlow CM17 0DW
- North Weald Library – 138 High Road, North Weald, Epping CM16 6BZ
- Epping Library – St John's Road, Epping CM16 5DN
- Harold Hill Library – 19A Farnham Road, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 8ED
- Gidea Park Library – Balgores Lane, Gidea Park RM2 6BS
- Shenfield Library – Hutton Road, Shenfield, Brentwood CM15 8NJ
- Hornchurch Library – 44 North Street, Hornchurch, RM11 1TB.

Next steps

We will record and carefully consider all responses received during the consultation, and these will be taken into account in finalising our application before we submit it to the Planning Inspectorate.

We'll summarise our findings in a Consultation Report which will include a description of how our application was informed by the responses received, and outline any changes made as a result of consultation. The Consultation Report forms part of our submission to the Planning Inspectorate. We anticipate that our DCO application for the scheme will be submitted in Autumn 2019.

The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination and will determine whether our consultation has been adequate.

For more information visit our scheme webpage where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated. If you have any queries about this scheme, please contact us by calling 0300 123 5000, emailing info@highwaysengland.co.uk or writing to us at: *FREEPOST M25 junction 28 improvement scheme*.

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