

A1

Birtley to Coal House improvement scheme

We want to hear
your views





A1 Birtley to Coal House improvement scheme

We're improving the A1 in your area

We want to hear your views

You are invited to a public exhibition to view proposals for improving the A1 between junction 65, Birtley and junction 67, Coal House

Friday 9 September

1pm until 8pm

Chowdene Children's Centre

Waverley Road
Harlow Green
NE9 7TU

Saturday 10 September

10am until 4pm

**Birtley East Community
Primary School**

Highfield
Birtley East
DH3 1QQ

A1 Birtley to Coal House improvement scheme

We want to hear your views

About us

Highways England (formerly known as the Highways Agency) is the government company responsible for operation, maintenance and improvements to England's motorways and major A roads.

Regional improvements

The A1 Newcastle/Gateshead Western Bypass is one of the most congested highway links in the north-east region. It suffers congestion, particularly during peak hours, which can result in unreliable journey times. Traffic is also expected to grow with new housing and employment developments planned for the area.

History

In December 2014, the government issued its Road Investment Strategy, which included a commitment to upgrade this stretch of the A1 between Birtley and Coal House.

We want to hear your views

This is your opportunity to provide comments on the A1 Birtley to Coal House scheme proposals. Your views are important to us and all responses will be reviewed and assessed and will help to inform selection and further development of a preferred improvement option. All views and comments received will be summarised in our consultation report which will be available in winter 2016.

The consultation will run for six weeks from 26 August 2016 to 7 October 2016.

Following the announcement of the preferred option, we will continue to consult with you as the scheme develops.

Benefits

The A1 between Birtley and Coal House will be improved by widening the existing road to provide a three lane carriageway and replacement of Allerdene Railway Bridge.

We're designing this improvement scheme to deliver greater benefits for road users, local communities, and to support the region's economy. Once completed it will:

- Reduce congestion by increasing road capacity for road users
- Improve the reliability for peoples' journeys by increasing capacity of the road network, which will help to reduce delays. Replacing Allerdene Railway Bridge will also improve reliability of journeys by reducing the amount of maintenance required
- Make journeys safer, by improving the standard and capacity of the road, which will reduce the impact of safety issues along the route
- Help support economic growth by improving the road to the Newcastle and Tyneside area (Team Valley Employment Zone), while supporting the government's initiative for growth in the north-east

Proposed options

The existing road will be widened to provide a three lane carriageway to increase capacity.

Additional lanes will be provided between junctions to help manage traffic joining and leaving the A1.

Modifications will be made to the existing structures at junction 65 (Birtley), junction 66 (Eighton Lodge) and junction 67 (Coal House) to accommodate the additional lanes.

Allerdene Railway Bridge will be replaced with a wider structure and additional lanes to improve capacity. The height of the bridge and road at this section will also be raised to ensure the bridge meets current standards.

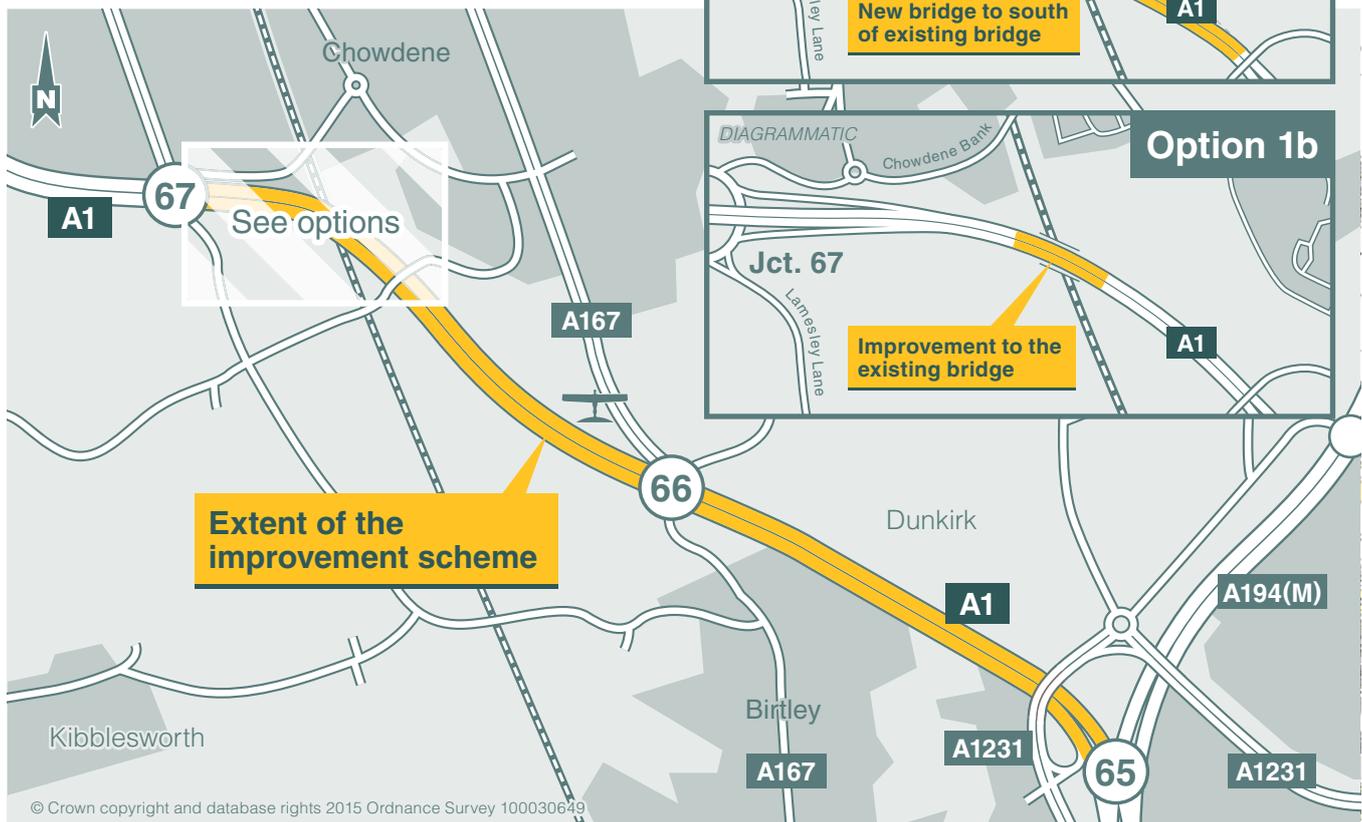
Most of the work will take place within the highway boundary; however, some additional land will be required at points along the route to enable us to deliver the improvements. We will make every effort to minimise any impact on local residents, landowners and businesses.

Option 1a

Allerdene Railway Bridge will be reconstructed south of its current location, improving the existing road alignment and improving safety. To accommodate the new alignment, Smithy Lane overbridge will have to be replaced.

Option 1b

Allerdene Railway Bridge will be replaced in its current location. This will require a temporary bridge to be constructed to carry traffic over the A1 while the new bridge is constructed. This option is a more complex scheme to construct requiring more traffic management and a longer construction period.



A1 Birtley to Coal House improvement scheme

Public consultation questionnaire

Please tell us your views by completing this questionnaire.

If you're returning this to us by post, please follow the folding instructions on the back page of the questionnaire and pop it in the post.

Please submit your completed questionnaire by 7 October 2016.

Please provide us with your name and address. If you'd prefer for your comments to be anonymous, please just provide your postcode.

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

1. After reviewing Option 1a and Option 1b

I prefer: Option 1a Option 1b Neither option

2. Please provide more detail as to which option you prefer and why. Please write in below:

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3. Do you have any comments on the options design and selection process?

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Please tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements by ticking the relevant box:

4. Something should be done to improve congestion between junction 65 (Birtley) and junction 67 (Coal House).

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. I understand the two options being considered.

Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. What is your relationship to the A1 junction 65 to 67 and the surrounding area (tick all that apply)?:

- I use the A1 Birtley to Coal House regularly
- Junction 65 is my nearest connection to the A1
- Junction 66 is my nearest connection to the A1
- Junction 67 is my nearest connection to the A1
- I use the A1 but don't leave at junction 65, 66 or 67

7. How often do you use this junction?

<input type="checkbox"/> Daily	<input type="checkbox"/> More than once a week	<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly
<input type="checkbox"/> More than once a month	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than once a month

If you want to be kept informed by email about the project please give us your email address below:

.....

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of the organisation and your role in it:

Name of organisation:

Your role in the organisation:

If you have any other comments about the scheme or the engagement process, please detail them below.

Other comments:

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This section is optional but we'd be grateful if you'd tell us a little about yourself so that we understand more about the community we serve. We will not share your personal information nor will we contact you or use it for any other purpose.

i. Your gender?

- Male Female Prefer not to say

ii. Your age?

- 16-24 25-34 35-44
 45-54 55-64 65+

iii. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

- Yes No

iv. Did you attend a public information exhibition about this scheme?

- Yes No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on Highways England.

Highways England will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances; this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. Confidential responses will be included in any statistical summary of number of comments and views expressed.

Fold B



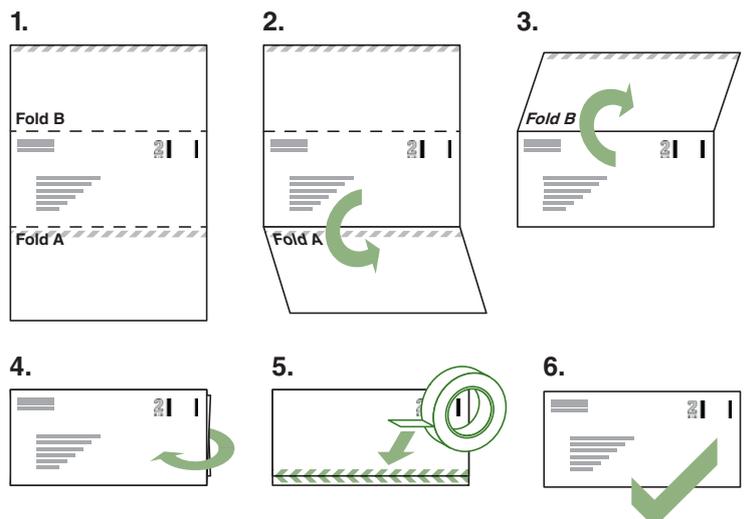
Freepost RSAS-ZGKK-CSUL
A1 Birtley to Coal House Consultation
Lateral
8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

Fold A

Folding instructions

Once you've completed the questionnaire please follow these instructions before returning it to us:

1. With the return address facing you...
2. fold the bottom part backwards along Fold A;
3. fold the top part backwards along Fold B;
4. turn the folded questionnaire over; and
5. secure it by sticking clear tape along the length of hatched area.
6. There's no need for a stamp, just pop it in the post.



Option development

Since 2015, we have been developing and assessing options that have the potential to address the issues identified on this stretch of the A1.

We have previously considered an offline option, as detailed below, but will not be progressing this any further.

Offline Replacement from junction 66 (Eighton Lodge) to junction 67 (Coal House)

This option involved replacing Allerdene Railway Bridge approximately 200m to the south of the existing structure, which would have required the section between Eighton Lodge and Coal House

(junction 66 to junction 67) to also be offline.

This option requires significant additional land to be purchased and would have resulted in a completely new layout of Coal House junction with the existing structure at junction 67 (Kingsway Viaduct) being demolished and replaced.

After carrying out initial environmental and economic assessments, we have concluded that this solution would have a far greater impact on the surrounding area than our current proposals and would not provide any additional capacity or benefit. The estimated costs for this option show that it would also be far more expensive and so does not provide value for money.

You and your community

The scheme will benefit local residents and business by relieving congestion and improving journey time reliability. It will promote growth in the local economy by improving the road to the Newcastle and Tyneside area (Team Valley Employment Zone), while supporting the government's initiative for growth in the north-east.

Ongoing environmental work

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be carried out to assess the impact of the work on the environment. Once the assessments outlined below have been carried out we will identify ways to reduce impacts and, where possible, enhance the environment. The assessment will consider a diverse range of topics as follows:

Noise and vibration

Information on traffic volumes and how the project will be built will be used to assess what the effects on noise and vibration levels will be both during construction and once the road is opened.

Landscape and visual amenity

We will look at how the project will impact on the local landscape and quality of views both during the construction of the project and once the road is complete.

Waste and material

As far as possible we will minimise the production of waste and identify opportunities to reuse or recycle the waste that is produced.

Air quality

The impacts of the project on local and regional air quality will be assessed both during construction and once the road is opened.

Cultural heritage

We are working with local organisations to understand the archaeological sites, historic buildings and landscape within our working area and any effects will be considered and properly managed.

Nature conservation

We are carrying out further surveys to see how the project could affect habitats and protected or sensitive species, and measures would be put in place to protect any of these affected by the works.

Geology and soils

Ground investigation surveys will be carried out to identify the potential impacts on soils and geology. We are working with the Coal Authority to understand the mining history of the area.

Road drainage

The possible impacts on surface water, groundwater and flooding will be identified. We will put environmental features in place to maintain the quality of water discharged to local watercourses and will work with the Environment Agency to ensure local flood plain capacity is not affected.

People and communities

We will consider the effects of the project on everyone along the route including residents, vehicle travellers, pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and landowners; and we will continue to consult local groups as our plans progress.

How to give us your views

We would encourage you to come along to one of our consultation events to discuss the proposals in more detail with our project team.

You can use one of the following methods to contact us and/or respond to the consultation:

- Attend the public consultation exhibition and complete a questionnaire
- Download a questionnaire online at: www.highways.gov.uk/a1-birtley-to-coalhouse
- Email the project team at: a1birtleytocoalhouse@highwaysengland.co.uk
- By post to: **A1 Birtley to Coal House, Highways England, 3 South, Lateral, Leeds, LS11 9AT**
- Telephone: **0300 123 5000**

When making comments please provide us with your name and address or, if you prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only.

Please note, all comments made during the consultation process will be made public, but personal details such as names and addresses will not.

Further consultation materials, including an electronic copy of this leaflet and consultation event boards will be available online at: www.highways.gov.uk/a1-birtley-to-coalhouse

The material can be viewed at Highways England, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT. Viewing times Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm

Paper or CD copies of the consultation materials can be provided on request. Please contact the team for further copies.

Please ensure your comments reach us by **Friday 7 October 2016**.

Public exhibitions

Meet staff from Highways England to learn more about the proposals:

Friday 9 September - 1pm until 8pm

Chowdene Children's Centre, Waverley Road, Harlow Green NE9 7TU

Saturday 10 September - 10am until 4pm

Birtley East Community Primary School, Highfield, Birtley East DH3 1QQ

How will you use my response?

All views and comments received assist us to:

- Make sure potential impacts on the community and environment have been fully considered

- Ensure the scheme design is updated with relevant responses where applicable
- Record how we have considered feedback to develop the scheme further. This will be set out in a consultation report (winter 2016).

Project scheme contact details

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

Post: **Highways England, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT**

Email:

a1birtleytocoalhouse@highwaysengland.co.uk

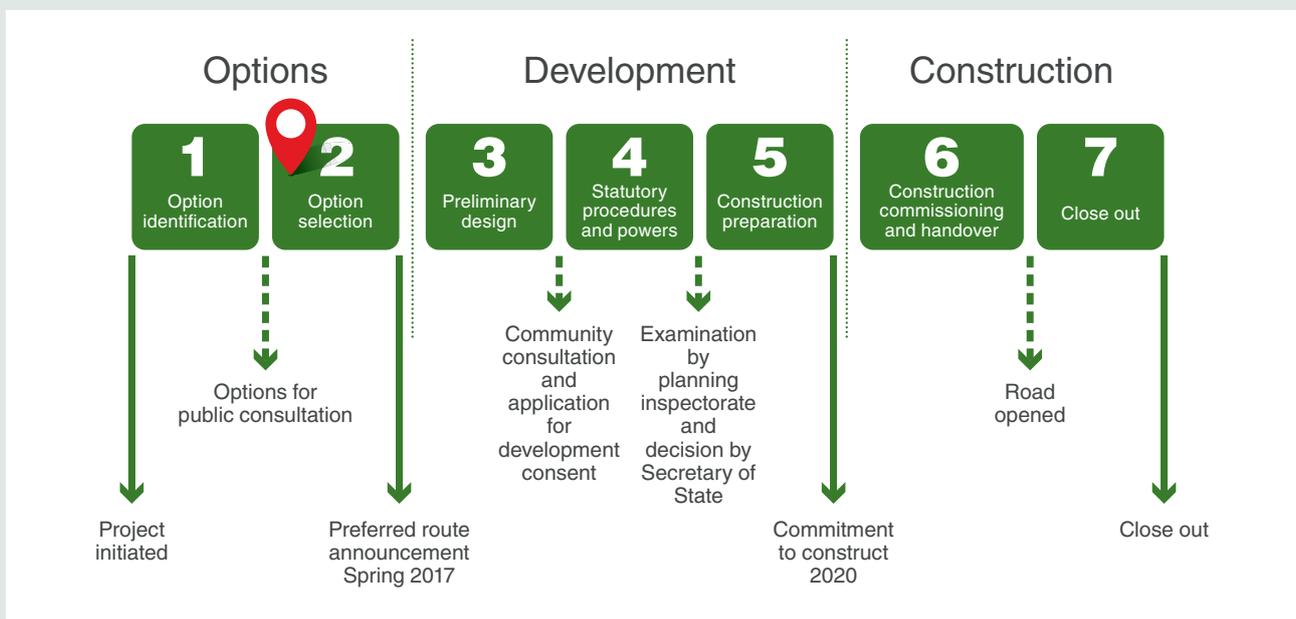
Next steps

The timeline below shows what will happen at each stage of the scheme. We are currently at Stage 2 - Option selection. Responses gathered during the consultation will be reported to the Secretary of State for Transport who makes the decision on the final option to be progressed.

Following this preferred route announcement, we will carry out surveys and investigations to

allow us to design the scheme in more detail. We will consult further on the detailed proposals and you will have an additional opportunity to engage with us about the selected option and how we go about carrying out the work.

We currently expect work to start by the end of March 2020.



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

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This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

If you have any enquiries about this publication email info@highwaysengland.co.uk or call **0300 123 5000***. Please quote the Highways England publications code **PR81/16**.

Highways England creative job number N160166

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Printed on paper from well-managed forests and other controlled sources.

Registered office Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford GU1 4LZ
Highways England Company Limited registered in England and Wales number 09346363