

# A1 Scotswood to North Brunton Improvement scheme

## Welcome to our public awareness exhibition

We are holding this awareness exhibition to help you obtain a better understanding of the proposed improvements to the A1 Newcastle / Gateshead Western Bypass. This route has critical importance to the economy and connectivity in the North East of England; however it is one of the most congested highway links in the country.

We are currently developing a solution to improve the A1 between Scotswood to North Brunton - junctions 74 to 79, by widening to three narrow lanes within the existing highway boundary. This section of the A1 currently experiences delays and journey time reliability issues. Improving this section will help to enhance safety, and access to jobs and services in the region.

### We aim to:

- Reduce delays and improve journey time reliability on the route
- Help support economic growth in the North East
- Improve safety along the route for road users
- Reduce the impact of collisions on the route



## Tell us what you think today

This exhibition is an opportunity for you to bring to our attention any views or concerns regarding the proposed A1 Scotswood to North Brunton improvement scheme.

If you would like to give us your feedback, please complete the questionnaire form provided.

If you have any questions, please ask a member of the project team, who will be happy to help you.

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## Birchfield Gardens Access Road

### What's happening?

As part of the A1 Scotswood to North Brunton improvement scheme we propose to close access from Birchfield Gardens to the A1 northbound exit slip road at Denton junction 75, and a turning facility be provided at the end of Birchfield Gardens.

### Why are we doing this?

We need to close the access road as it would otherwise potentially be unsafe to use once the widening of the A1 Scotswood to North Brunton section is completed.

The existing layout of this junction allows vehicles to access the A1 slip road from a local road, which does not meet current safety standards.



Once the A1 has been widened, the layout of the slip road will alter, which could lead to an increased risk of accidents in this location. Therefore, it's proposed that the Birchfield Gardens access to the A1 is closed to reduce safety risks at this junction.

### When will it happen?

The improvement scheme is in its early stages of development and design, and we are also in the process of assessing the scheme to understand its environmental impacts, and the statutory processes that will be needed. Once we have completed the required assessments, we will hold further public information events to update and provide you with more information.

If the scheme successfully completes all necessary statutory processes and remains value for money, we expect to start construction work during 2019/20. The timing of the proposed closure of the Birchfield Gardens access road still needs to be decided. However, the closure will not happen until we have started construction of the main scheme.

### Tell us what you think

The project team would like to hear your views about the improvement scheme, which will help to inform and develop the scheme's design.

Therefore, we encourage you to take a small amount of time today to provide us with your feedback by completing the questionnaire provided.

If you have any queries about completing the questionnaire or need any help, please ask a member of the Highways England project team, who will be happy to help.

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## What will happen next?

The improvement scheme is in the very early stages of development.

All comments and feedback provided today will be reviewed by the project team to help inform development of the scheme's design.

**During 2016/17** - we will carry out further traffic and environmental assessments to help understand the impacts of the scheme in the area, and which statutory processes will be needed. This will also help to us to assess and understand the impact of closing the Birchfield Gardens access road to the A1.

Once we have established the correct statutory processes, this will help us to establish timings for progressing the improvement scheme. We also plan to hold more public information events during this time to keep you up to date and informed.

**During 2019/20** - we currently expect the construction of the scheme to commence. We will be able confirm dates nearer the time.

## Keeping you up to date



**Online** – up to date information will be posted on our scheme web page as it becomes available, at:

[www.highways.gov.uk/A1Scotswood](http://www.highways.gov.uk/A1Scotswood)



**Email alerts** - you can sign up to receive email alerts as they are made via our web page at:

[www.highways.gov.uk/A1Scotswood](http://www.highways.gov.uk/A1Scotswood)

**Contacting us** - If you have any queries about this improvement scheme please contact the Highways England information line by emailing:

[info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)



Or call:

**0300 123 5000**

Alternatively, you can contact the project team direct at:

[A1Scotswood.toNorthBrunton@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:A1Scotswood.toNorthBrunton@highwaysengland.co.uk)