

A66

Northern Trans-Pennine project Approach to public consultation

Summer 2019

Introduction

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has given us the task of investigating the potential to improve the A66 between M6 junction 40 at Penrith and the A1(M) at Scotch Corner. This is in order to address the lack of east / west connectivity across the Pennines in the north of England.

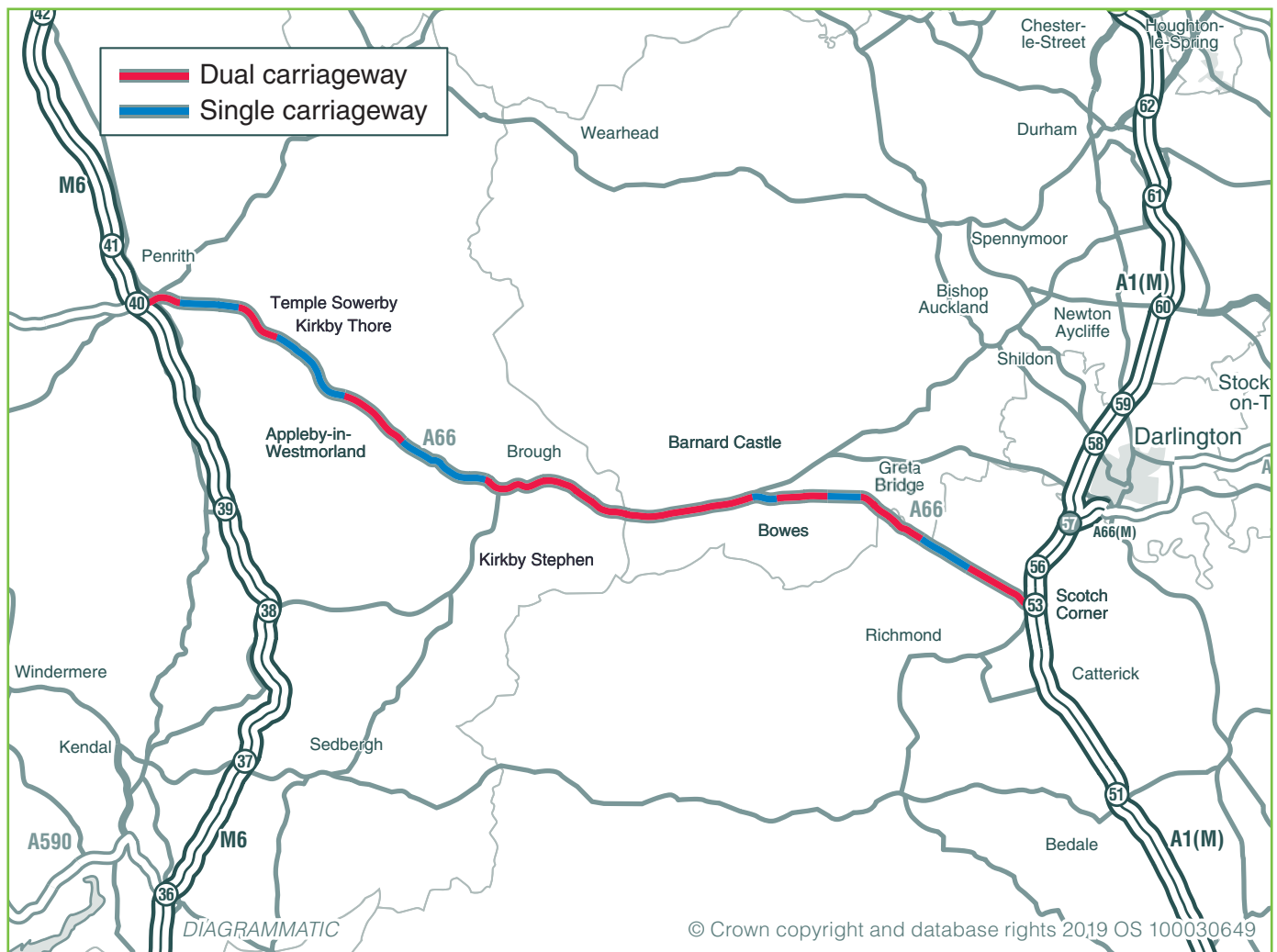
We are proposing to invest more than a billion pounds to dual the remaining single carriageway sections of the A66. This will significantly improve journeys and connectivity, which is great news for the local, regional and national economy.

We'll be seeking views on our proposals to dual the A66 between M6 Junction 40 at Penrith and the A1(M) at Scotch Corner, and we want to ensure you know how we'll do this. That's why we've produced this document which outlines our approach to the consultation, including the different ways we'll collect feedback. It also provides details about how you can take part and how feedback will be used to influence our proposals.

To make sure we approach our consultation in the very best way, we've developed this document in partnership with Cumbria County Council, Durham County Council and North Yorkshire County Council and other interested parties, to ensure our consultation is as effective and inclusive as possible.



The Project



The work we are proposing for the A66 includes dualling the remaining single lane sections of the road between Penrith and Richmond, and making other improvements along its length, such as at Kemplay Roundabout and the junctions with the M6 and A1.

Additional information about the project, including the options we are consulting on and associated benefits, will be included in our public consultation brochure. Copies of the brochure will be available locally when the consultation is launched at appropriate local locations and on the project webpage.

Environmental information

An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) is being carried out to assess the potential environmental effects within the proposed project area to support the process of identifying suitable options for the scheme. At this stage, we have identified fifteen options and the EAR assesses each one on a range of environmental topics.

We will evaluate possible impacts the project could have, considering the existing environment and an initial assessment will be made. Measures to reduce negative impacts, such as screening and noise barriers, will be identified where possible and we will also look into what opportunities there are to improve existing environmental conditions.

The following range of environmental areas is being assessed:

- Air quality
- Climate change
- Landscape
- Water environment
- Use of materials
- People and communities
- Noise and vibration
- Biodiversity
- Cultural heritage
- Geology and soils
- Cumulative effects

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening will be carried out at a later stage, looking at what environmental effects are likely to arise from making the proposed improvements, to determine whether a full assessment of impacts is required.

Approach to public consultation

The purpose of this Approach to Public Consultation document is to explain what you can expect from us and to outline the details of the consultation process. It will be updated regularly as activities for each stage of the consultation are confirmed.

The Approach to Public Consultation will be included on the project webpage and copies will be available locally at suitable locations once the consultation is launched. These are likely to include libraries and community centres and amongst other deposit points in key locations along the A66 in Cumbria, Durham and North Yorkshire counties.

Public consultation is an important part of the delivery of this project and provides a real opportunity to influence our proposals. It also gives us an opportunity to help you fully understand the project and resolve any concerns.

We will be carrying out non-statutory public consultation over the summer on our design options for the scheme, the results of which will help to inform our decision about which option to take forward. It is not the only time we'll be consulting on this project. We will engage in

a further round of consultation once we have our preferred design option, giving you another opportunity to get involved and share your views.

Why and when will we consult?

Your comments will help us better understand the local area and any potential impacts the project may have on road users and the local community. We will listen to everyone's views and we'll consider your opinions before we select a preferred option for the project.

From the outset, we recognised the need for early engagement and have had had a number of meetings with Cumbria County Council, Durham County Council, North Yorkshire County Council, Tees Valley Combined Authority, Transport for the North, Freight Transport Authority, Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. We have also met with large landowners and held focus groups with stakeholders spanning business, freight and ports, local authorities, emergency services, environmental interest and walking, cycling and horse-riding.

Options for the project will be consulted on between 14 May and 9 July 2019. At least 20 consultation events will be held in key locations along the A66 where people will be able to meet the team and ask questions about our proposals.

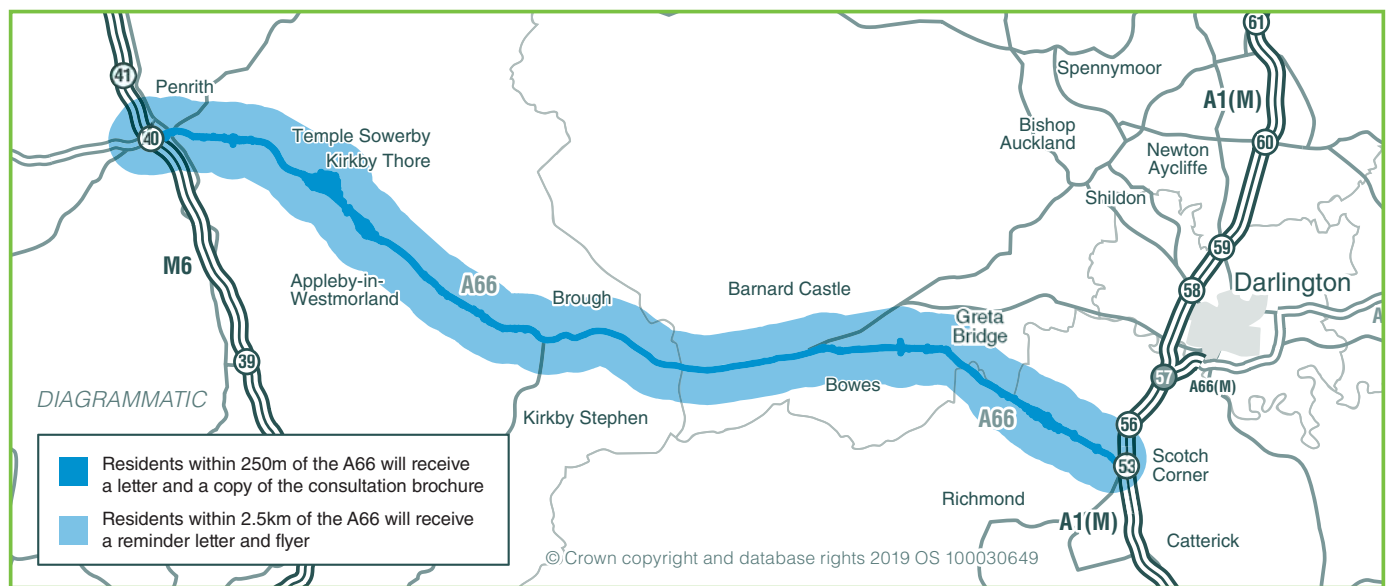
Details of these events will be given in advance of the consultation starting.

Who will we consult?

Working with Cumbria County Council, Durham County Council, North Yorkshire County Council and other interested parties, we have developed a consultation target area for the distribution of our consultation materials. This is based on who we think will be interested in or affected by our proposals. We'll let people living/working in this

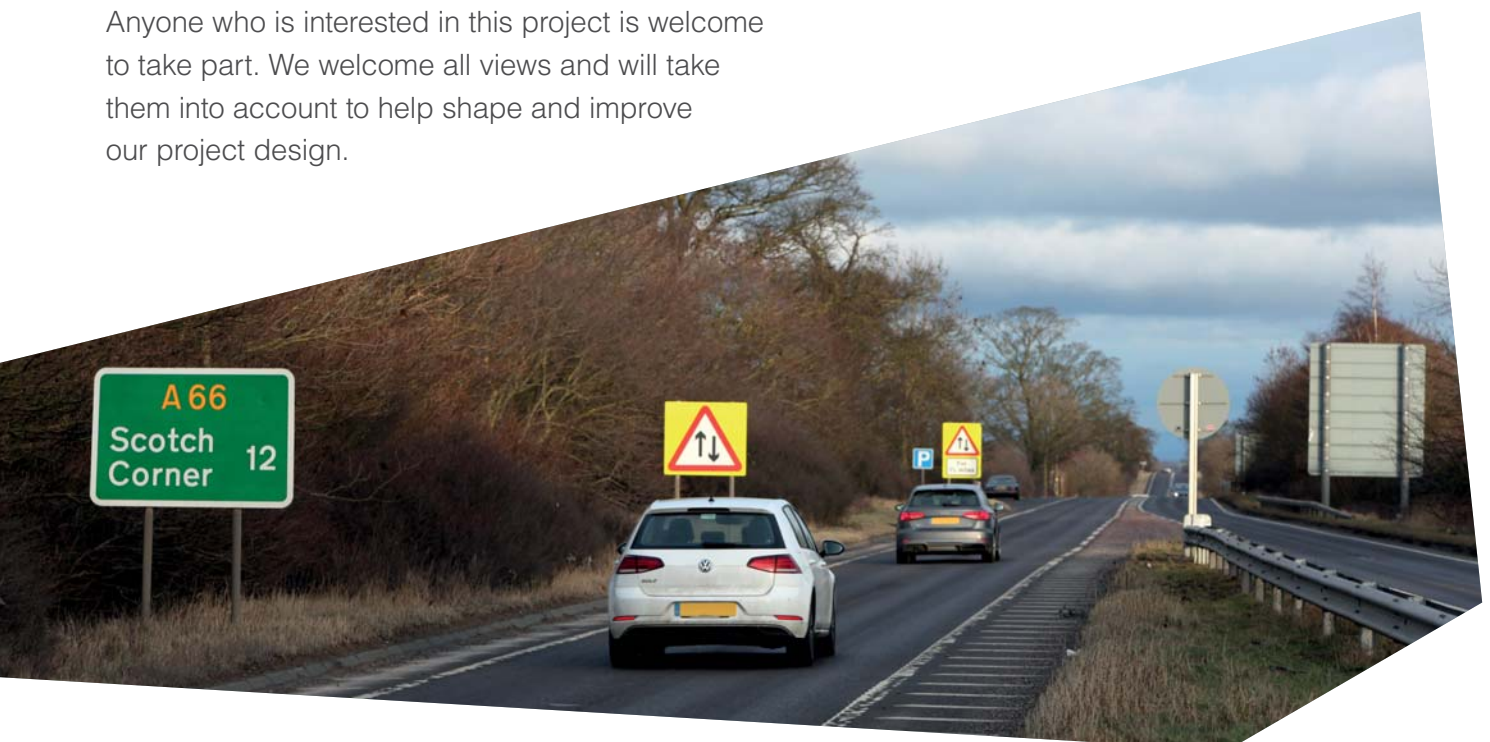
area know about our consultation by posting information in advance.

We will also work with local authorities to identify groups who are traditionally hard to reach to ensure that reach all those who could be affected by our proposals.



Who can take part?

Anyone who is interested in this project is welcome to take part. We welcome all views and will take them into account to help shape and improve our project design.



How will we consult?

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

| Method | Detail |
|---|---|
| Public consultation events | Events at local venues where members of the team will be available to answer questions about the proposals. Visitors to the events will be able to submit their consultation responses if they choose to. |
| Project webpage | A full summary of the project, the public consultation brochure and the online response form, available on the project webpage. |
| Public consultation brochure | We'll deliver our public consultation brochure containing details of the events to directly affected homes and businesses. Flyers or letters will be sent to people who may be interested in, but not directly affected by the scheme. Copies of both these documents will also be available locally from local libraries and other locations identified in conjunction with local authorities and other stakeholders. |
| Council and community / area forum briefings | If required at any stage, we will consider any briefings as appropriate outside of our usual stakeholder group meetings. |
| Stakeholder briefings | If required at any stage, we will consider conducting individual stakeholder briefings outside of our usual stakeholder group meetings on a case by case basis. |
| Stakeholder groups | We currently hold a number of Stakeholder Reference Group Meetings (SRG) throughout the year and a number of individual focus group sessions which includes targeted stakeholder groups such as local authorities, emergency services, walkers, pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders and others. If anything further is required we will review as appropriate. |
| Consultation response | Comments can be submitted online by completing the online response form at the project webpage address (to be added when available), in writing to the following freepost address: (address to be inserted when set up) or by visiting a consultation event. All responses must be received by 9 July 2019. |
| Media | The public consultation will be advertised in locally circulating newspapers, including the Northern Echo, Gazette Live, Cumberland and Westmoreland Herald. Adverts will be placed in local newspapers to promote the launch of the consultation and reminders will be placed ahead of the events. Press releases detailing the public consultation period and how the community and road users can get involved will be issued. |
| Social media | The public consultation and associated exhibitions will be tweeted from @HighwaysNWest and @HighwaysNEast |

What will happen to the consultation responses?

All responses received during the public consultation will be recorded and analysed. The content of each response will be categorised and broken down by sentiment, themes and respondent profile – helping us understand your comments and why you have made them. Where it is possible to do so, we will use your feedback to help influence the project design or to help identify ways to address concerns about the impacts of the project.

We'll summarise our findings in a public consultation report which will explain our analysis and how it influenced our proposals.

The consultation report and detailed area research such as ground investigation surveys and traffic assessments will help us identify, and subsequently announce, our preferred route.

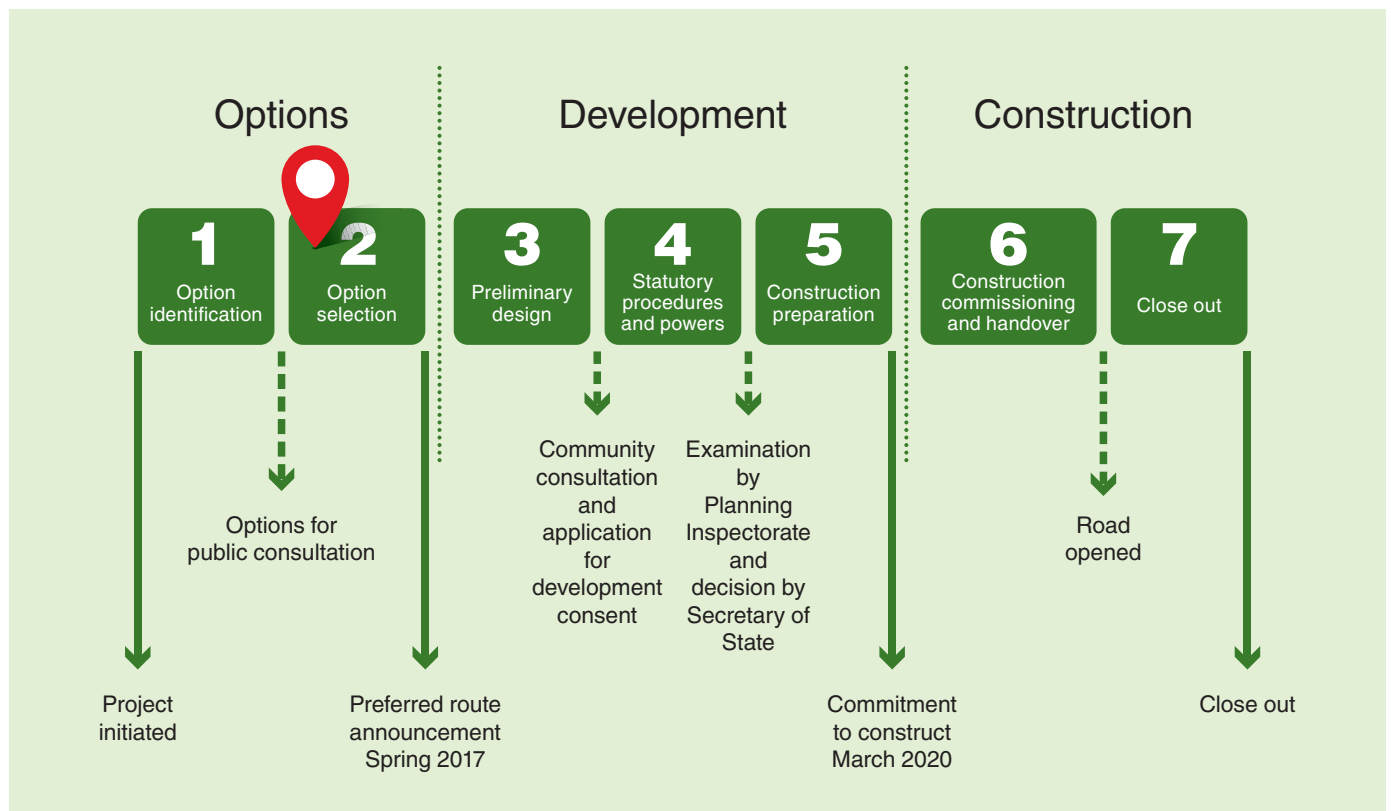
Application process and project development

There are differing levels of permission that dictate the consenting route a scheme must follow to obtain permission.

need to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008. This will include a further consultation period and a Hearing conducted by the Planning Inspectorate.

This project is categorised as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP). We will

The process for this is explained in the table below.



For more information visit our project webpage where you can also sign up for email alerts whenever the webpage is updated. If you have any queries about this project, please contact the project team directly by emailing A66NTP@highwaysengland.co.uk

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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