

A5

**Towcester improvements**  
Public consultation



August 2022

# Introduction

## Investing in your roads

At National Highways 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 dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe.

We're investigating options to improve Towcester town centre, following on from the construction of the new link road south of the town between the A5 and A43. The primary objective of this scheme is to enhance the A5 through Towcester to improve the lives of those who live, work and visit here.



In this brochure we'll explain our proposed improvements for Towcester town centre and how you can give us your feedback.

All responses must be sent to National Highways by **11:59pm on 11 September 2022**.

Responses received after this date may not be considered.

If you require paper copies or alternative formats of the material, please contact us using the details at the back of this brochure.



## Our consultation

We're holding a public consultation on our options to improve Towcester town centre. We'd like to hear your views and for you to share your local knowledge with us. The consultation will run for four weeks from **15 August to 11 September 2022**.

Your views are important to help us better understand the local area and any potential impacts our scheme may have on you and the community. We'll consider everyone's feedback before we select a preferred option.

## How to respond

You can respond to the consultation using the following methods:

- Complete the consultation response form online at:  
**<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east-midlands/towcester-improvements/>**
- Complete a paper copy of the consultation response form and return it using the freepost address:

**FREEPOST RTUK – RBLY – XUBT  
A5 Towcester Improvement  
5 First Street, Manchester  
M15 4GU**

Place the completed response form in an envelope with the freepost address written on the front and put it in your local post box. Alternatively, you can leave your completed response form with us at the consultation events.

## The need for the scheme

Towcester has longstanding issues with the high levels of traffic passing through its historic town centre, causing environmental, safety and accessibility concerns to residents and businesses. Due to the new link road being built between the A5 and A43 (south of the town), National Highways is now able to investigate options for improving Towcester town centre.

This proposed scheme aims to encourage through traffic, particularly goods vehicles, to use the new link road and the A43 as an alternative to the A5. This will alleviate some of the more disruptive traffic from the town centre, improving accessibility and quality of life in Towcester.

## What we have done so far

We held engagement workshops with key stakeholders to seek their views on traffic through Towcester town centre, including how active travel and accessibility in the area can be improved. We engaged with the following stakeholders:

- **Town and Parish Councils**
- **West Northamptonshire Council**
- **Police**

The workshops allowed us to identify themes which are important to stakeholders and key to achieving the scheme objectives.

### The objectives of the scheme are to:

- Improve safety for all.
- Reduce the impact of air and noise pollution on surrounding environments and habitats.
- Increase the number of trips made in Towcester by walking and cycling.
- Help boost the local economy through increased trade and footfall.
- Make Towcester's High Street an attractive place to visit.
- Improve accessibility to Towcester town centre for everyone.
- Preserve Towcester's rich history and identity.

## Workshop outputs

The engagement workshops steered us to rule out several different options that wouldn't be suitable for the scheme.

The measures considered not appropriate are identified below.

- Traffic calming measures such as road humps and chicanes – these types of features would contribute to poor air quality and noise levels due to frequent stopping and starting of vehicles.
- One-way systems – the provision of one-way traffic routes would promote greater vehicle speeds and increased use of local residential roads.
- Removal of traffic signals and introduction of a roundabout at Brackley Road/Northampton Road junction - this option would remove the existing crossing facilities and could increase vehicle speeds through the junction.

## Your feedback



### Road safety

- You said you want us to improve road crossings for pedestrians and cyclists as well as create wider footpaths.

### Parking

- You said you want more enforcement around disabled spaces and for short/long stay parking provisions to be improved. Additionally, you want us to look at providing alternative transportation into the town centre to ease parking.

### Improvements to public areas

- You said you want the town centre to have a focal point and 'sense of place' for both visitors and residents of Towcester. You also want us to create a wider shared space for cyclists and pedestrians.

### Congestion/HGV issues

- You said you want us to find an alternative route for HGVs so there's less congestion in the town centre. You want us to help improve air and noise quality. You also said it would be beneficial to have loading bays for local deliveries to help traffic flow through the town centre.

### The A5/A43 link road

- You said you want us to improve signage for the link road to reduce traffic on the A5 as well as help accommodate future developments, both residential and commercial.

## What we considered

From the feedback we received during our engagement workshops, we identified **four key areas** that required improvements. These key areas are listed below and have been **included in all the options** discussed in this brochure.

### Improved signage

- Improve signage into Towcester, directing traffic not requiring town centre access via the new link road between the A5 and the A43 south of the town.
- Improve signage directing vehicles to public long and short stay car parks located within the town centre, to prevent drivers circling around the town to search for spaces.

### Introduce speed and vehicle restrictions

- Reduce speed from 40mph to 30mph along the A5 between the new roundabout at Cowpastures Lane and Marlow Road.
- Reduce speed from 30mph to 20mph along the A5 from Marlow Road through the town centre to Towcester Police Station.
- Enforce an environmental weight restriction on 7.5t vehicles between the new roundabout at Cowpastures Lane through Towcester town centre to Old Tiffield Road. Continue to allow large vehicles to have access to Old Tiffield Road and the retail park beyond.

### Improved active travel (walking and cycling)

- Improve pedestrian crossing point, located north of the A5/Heathencote junction.
- Install pedestrian/cycle crossing points on both sides of the A5 racecourse roundabout.
- Improve surface texture for cyclists using the A5 into and out of Towcester.
- Create a footway/cycleway between Towcester Police Station and Old Tiffield Road.
- Install a new traffic signal crossing on the A5, north of Old Tiffield Road junction.
- Install a new traffic signal or a zebra crossing point on Old Tiffield Road.
- Improve parking on the A5 between Vernon Road and The Lindens by creating parking bays to allow vehicles to park partially on the A5, while still allowing vehicles to travel in both directions.

### Public space improvements

- Raise the A5 as it crosses the Silverstone Brook to allow improved public spaces to be created.
- Create a public space between Chantry Lane and Towcester Police Station including new seating areas and planting features.





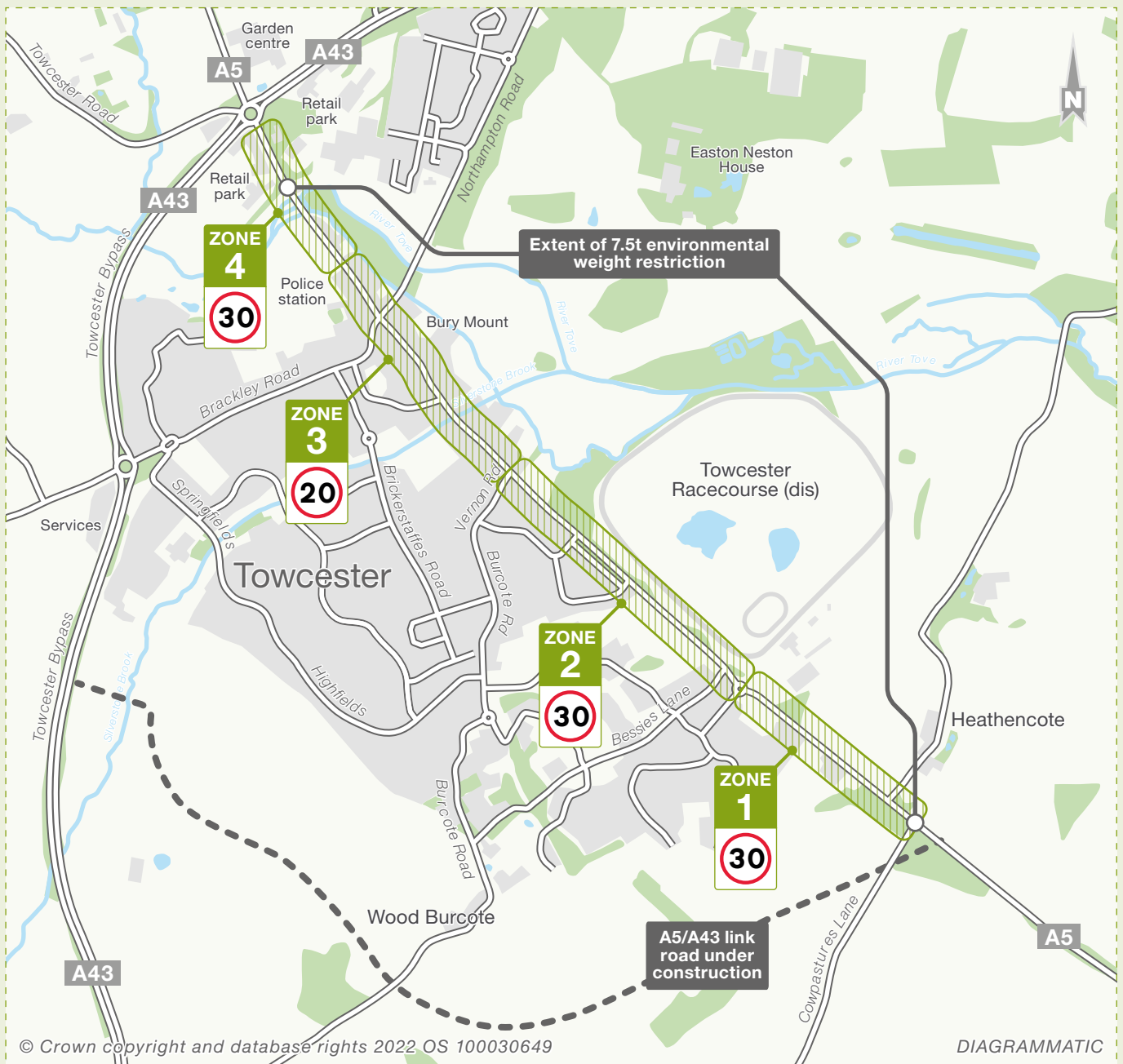
## Design approach

### Zones

As part of our design approach to providing improvement measures along the A5 into and through the town of Towcester, we have split the route into zones.

The zones can broadly be classified into urban and rural areas. Each zone represents a different character or change in the road environment where different types of interventions can be applied. Zones 1 and 4 are recognised as being more rural and less built up. Zones 2 and 3 represent a more urban, built-up area where residential, commercial and retail buildings are present.

### Scheme extent and scheme area zones



## The options

The three options outlined in this brochure have been shortlisted following a thorough option identification process and are in addition to the four key areas identified on page 5. We've made sure the options are in line with the key themes raised during the stakeholder workshops and with the scheme objectives. Our proposals for the area are described below.

### Option A

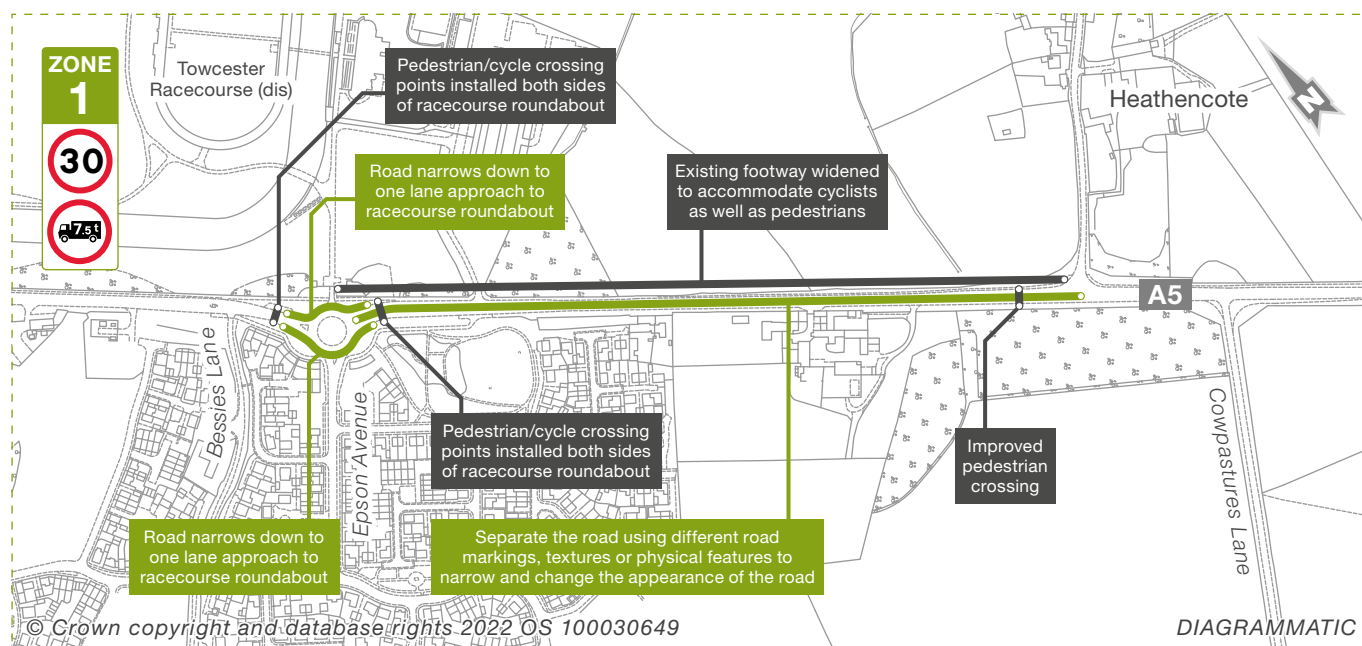
#### Improved active travel (walking and cycling)

- Widen the current footway between the A5/Heathencote junction and the racecourse roundabout to allow a combined footway/cycleway to be created.
- Separate the road using different road markings, textures and/or physical features to narrow and change the appearance of the road.
- Narrow the racecourse roundabout down to one traffic lane on all approaches by altering the kerbs and/or road markings.
- Create a new footway/cycleway on the south side of the A5 between the exit of the racecourse roundabout and Vernon Road. The current footway on the north side will remain.

#### Public space improvement

- Create a public space area in the current town square, with seating and planting features and/or artwork. Remove existing parking provisions except for disabled parking bays.
- Improve bus stop facilities in the town centre.
- Make Richmond Road to Towcester Police Station a shared space for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists by removing kerbs and road surface markings.
- Improve Brackley Road/Northampton Road junction with new widened footways and public space artwork.
- Reduce the width and number of lanes at the Brackley Road/Northampton Road junction and review the location and suitability of the pedestrian crossing points.

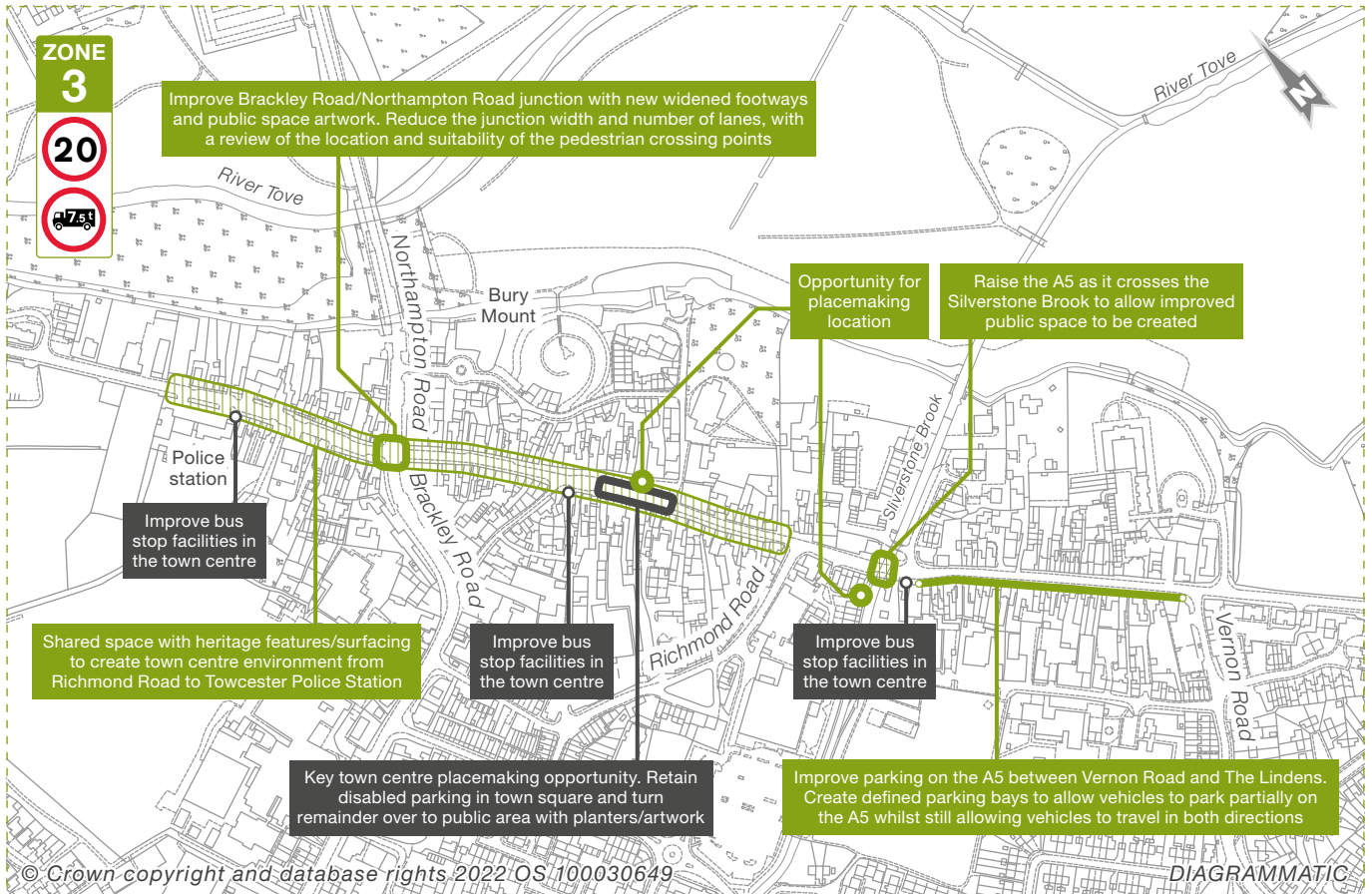
### Zone 1 - Option A



## Zone 2 - Option A



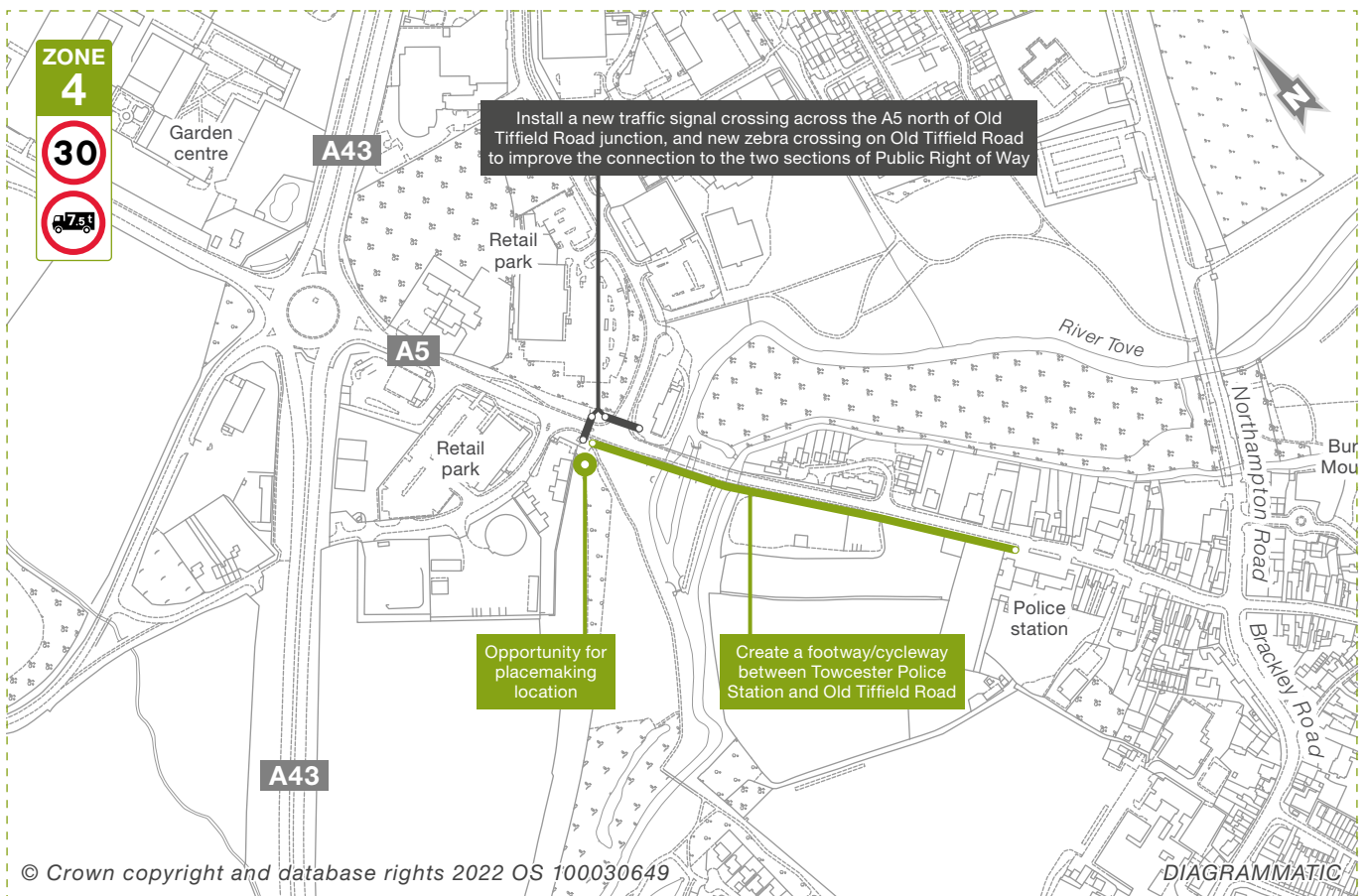
## Zone 3 - Option A





## Zone 4 - Option A

- Create a footway/cycleway between Towcester Police Station and Old Tiffield Road.
- Install a new traffic signal crossing on the A5, north of Old Tiffield Road junction.
- Install a new traffic signal or a zebra crossing point on Old Tiffield Road.
- Weight limit restriction to start after the Old Tiffield Road junction.



Please note the options given for Zone 4 are the same for Option A and B.

## Option B

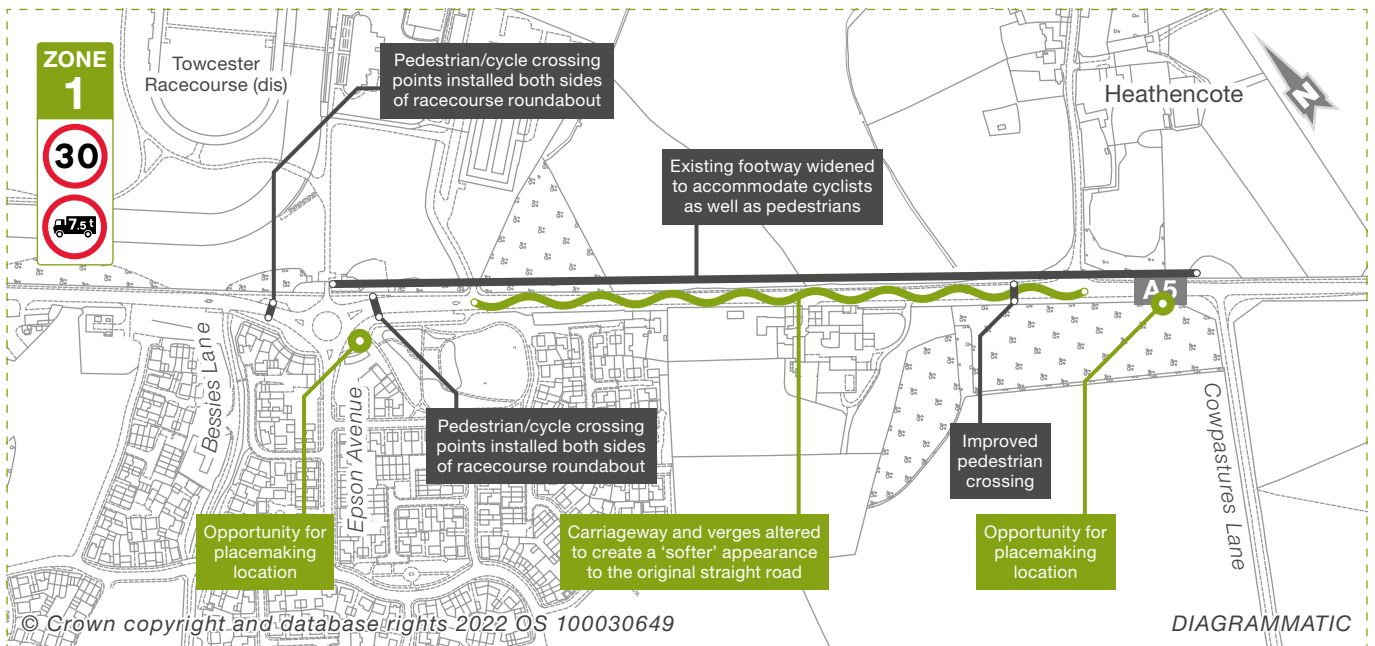
### Improved active travel (walking and cycling)

- Widen the current footway between the A5/Heathencote junction and the racecourse roundabout to allow a combined footway/cycleway to be created off road.
- Alter carriageway and verges to create a 'softer' appearance to the original straight road.
- Create a new footway/cycleway on the north side of the A5 and a new footway on the south side, between the exit of the racecourse roundabout and Vernon Road.

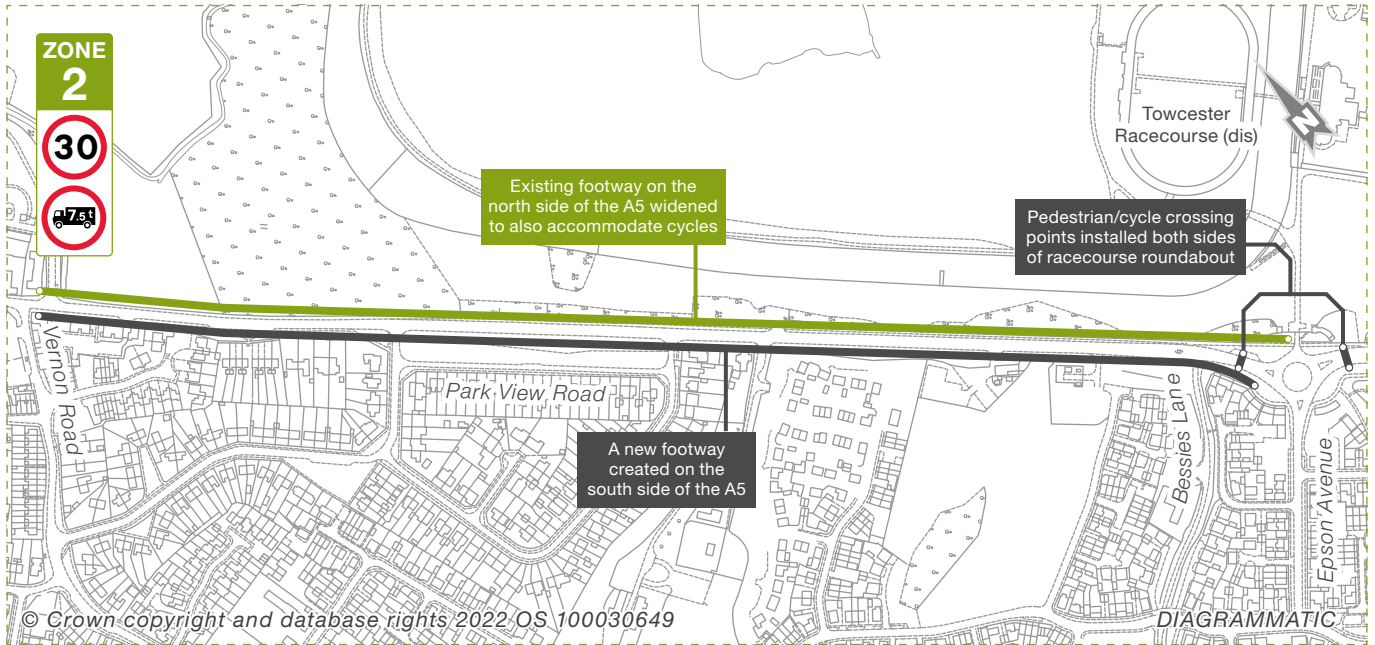
### Public space improvement

- Create a public space area in the town square, with seating and planting features and/or artwork. The current parking in the town square will remain.
- Improve crossing points with different textures, colours and cycle symbols on the carriageway.
- Improve the crossing point on the A5 between Richmond Road and Chantry Lane.

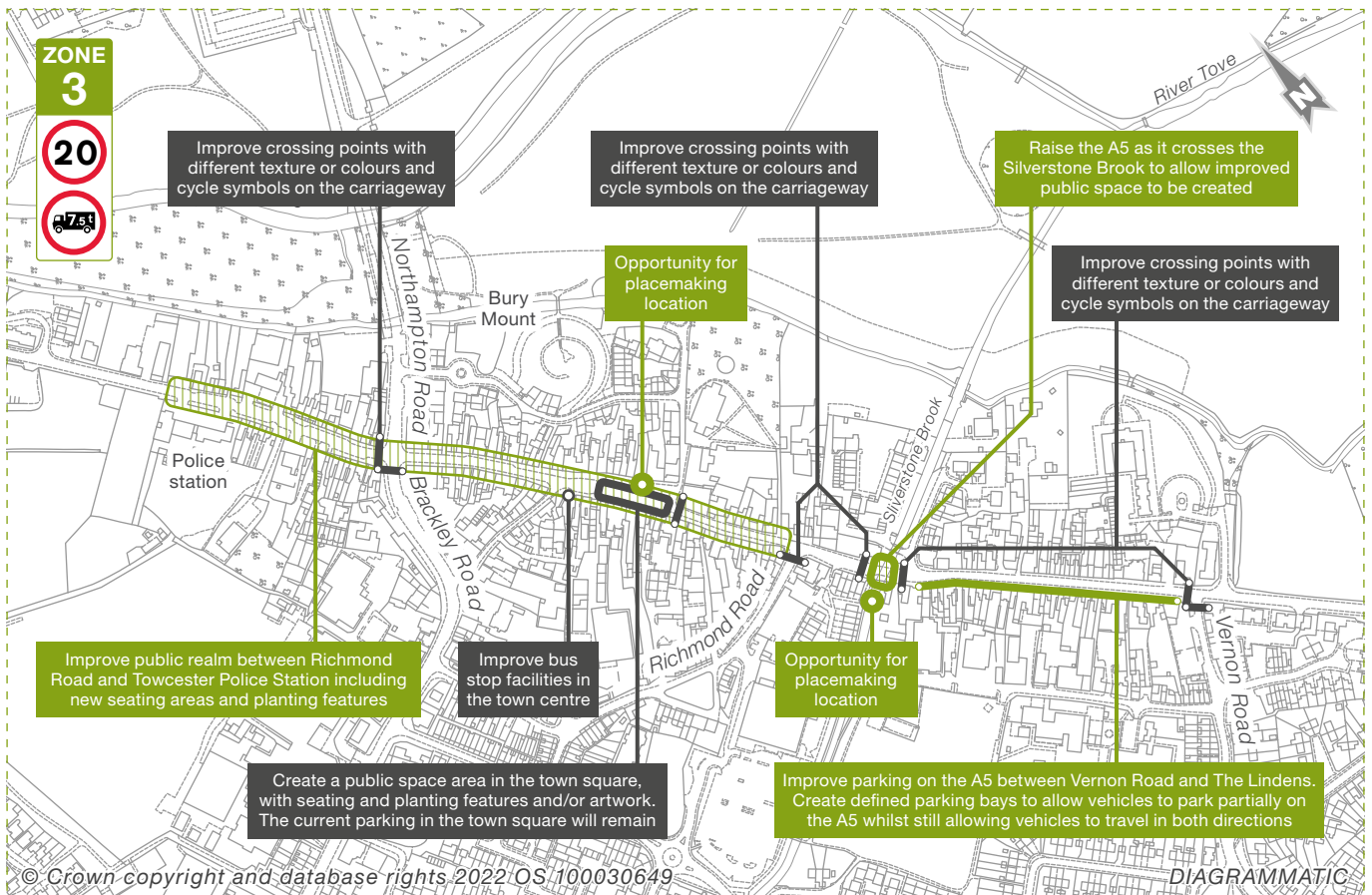
## Zone 1 - Option B



## Zone 2 - Option B

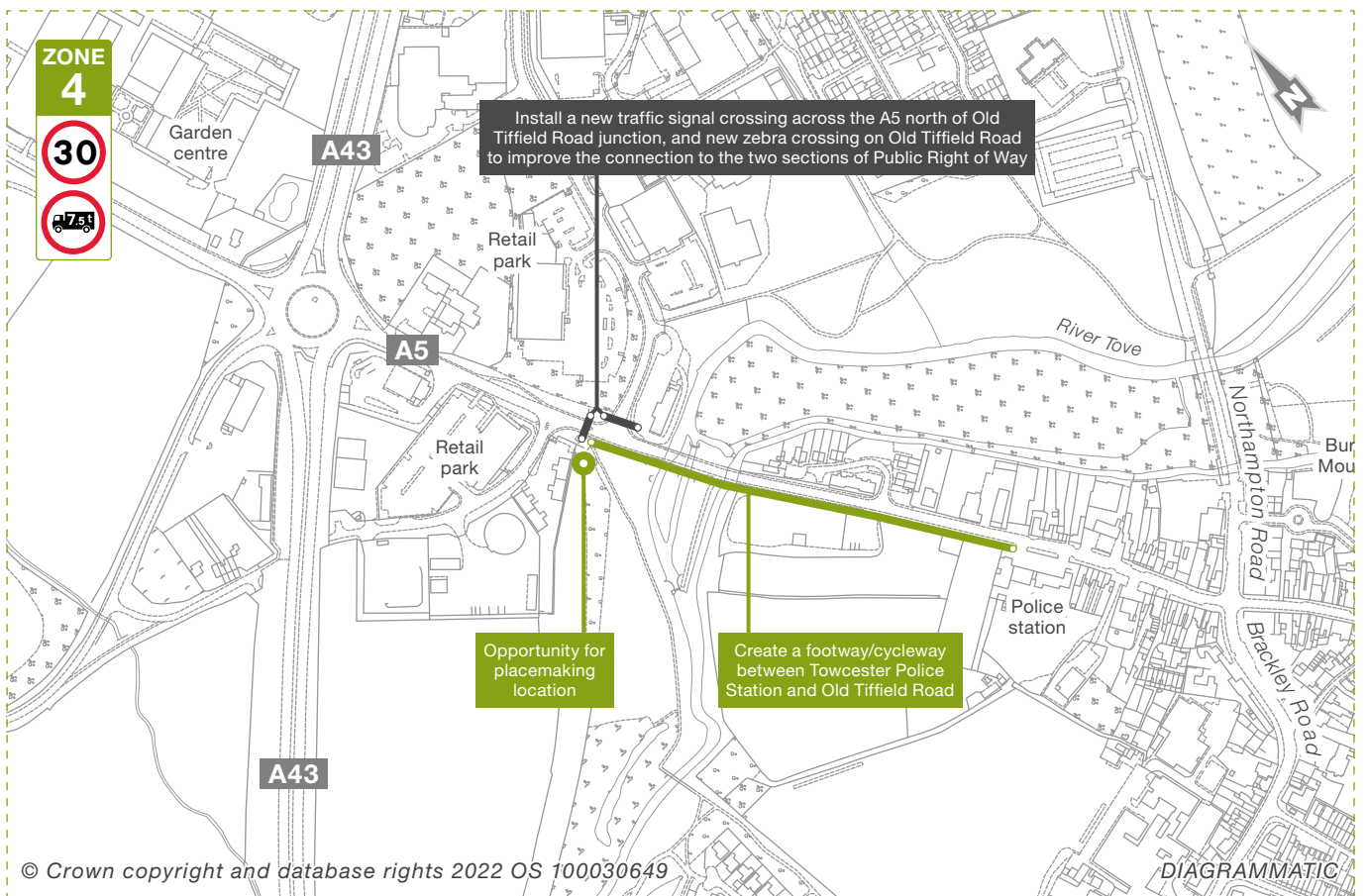


## Zone 3 - Option B



## Zone 4 - Option B

- Create a footway/cycleway between Towcester Police Station and Old Tiffield Road.
- Install a new traffic signal crossing on the A5, north of Old Tiffield Road junction.
- Install a new traffic signal or a zebra crossing point on Old Tiffield Road.
- Weight limit restriction to start after the Old Tiffield Road junction.



Please note the options given for Zone 4 are the same for Option A and B.



## Option C

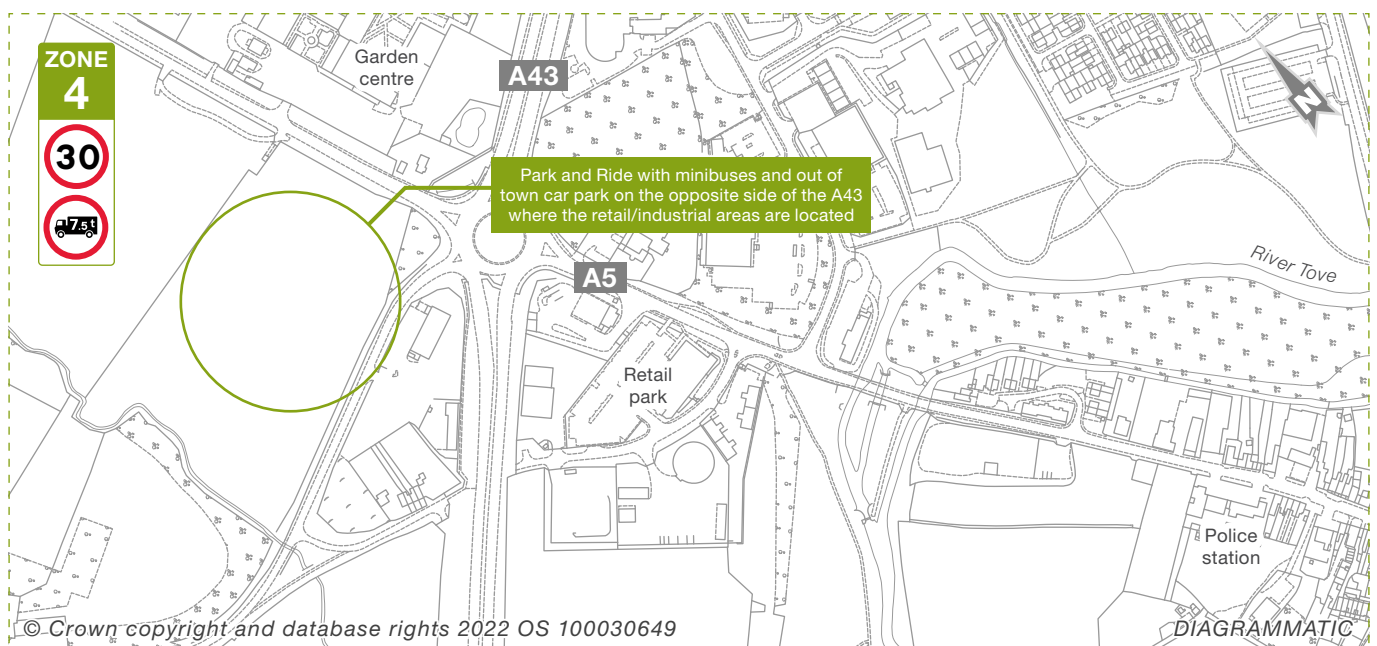
This option can be added to either Option A or B, but cannot be used alone. It includes the following:

- A Park and Ride created with minibuses, providing a shuttle service to Towcester town centre from out of town car parks. The first located near Cowpastures Lane. The second car park located off Towcester roundabout on the opposite side of the A43 where the retail/industrial areas are situated. **Please note locations are indicative at present.**

### Zone 1 - Option C



### Zone 4 - Option C



## Next steps

Once the consultation closes on **11 September 2022**, we'll review your feedback and produce a consultation report which will summarise the findings, including how your feedback has informed any changes to the design of the scheme.

Once the preferred solution has been identified, we'll further develop the chosen option to create a business case for funding around autumn 2023. The provisional target date for the start of construction is late 2024 to early 2025.

### Where to get more information:

Everything you need to know about this consultation and our improvement proposals for the A5 through Towcester is available on our scheme webpage <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east-midlands/towcester-improvements/>. You can also come to one of our public consultation events:

**Wednesday 31 August 2022**  
10am until 7pm

Sawpits Centre  
Towcester  
NN12 6FT

**Monday 5 September 2022**  
Noon until 7pm

Waitrose car park  
Richmond Road  
Towcester, NN12 6HZ

**Tuesday 6 September 2022**  
9am to 2pm

Aldi car park, Old Greens  
Norton Road  
Towcester NN12 8AX

Or join us at our online public consultation events held via Microsoft Teams:

- August 17th – 7:00pm-8.30pm
- August 24th – 7:00pm-8.30pm

To book onto these sessions please email your name and the date of the online event you would like to attend to [a5towcester@jacobs.com](mailto:a5towcester@jacobs.com) and we'll provide you with further details and the event link.

## Where to get the brochure and response form

Printed copies of the consultation brochure and response form will be available at our face to face consultation events above. They will also be available at the following locations from Monday 22 August, or on our scheme webpage.

**Towcester Library, The Forum**  
Moat Lane  
Towcester, NN12 6AD

Opening times:

- Monday – Friday – 9am – 6pm
- Saturday – 9am – 5pm
- Sunday – Closed

**Towcester Sports & Social Club**  
5 Swinneyford Road  
Towcester NN12 6HD

Opening times:

- Monday - Thursday – 7pm – 11pm
- Friday – Noon - 4pm
- Saturday – Sunday - Noon - midnight



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



## More information

For more information about the scheme, please visit our webpage, where you can also sign up to receive regular updates: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east-midlands/towcester-improvements/>

If you require a paper copy of this document or would like to talk with a member of our team, you can get in touch with us as follows:

In writing:

**FREEPOST RTUK – RBLY – XUBT**  
A5 Towcester Improvement  
5 First Street, Manchester  
M15 4GU

By email:

**[a5towcester@jacobs.com](mailto:a5towcester@jacobs.com)**

By telephone (24 hours):

**0300 123 5000** – our Customer Contact Centre will pass on a message to the project team

Webpage:

**<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/east-midlands/towcester-improvements/>**

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If you have any enquiries about this publication email [info@nationalhighways.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalhighways.co.uk) or call **0300 123 5000**\*. Please quote the National Highways publications code **PR161/22**.

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