

Contents

1) Scheme overview.....	2
1A) What does the scheme involve?.....	2
1B) Isn't the upgrade to Arle Court Park and Ride included in this scheme?.....	2
1C) Why is the scheme needed?	2
1D) How have the scheme elements been selected?	3
2) Funding and planning	3
2A) Who is funding the scheme?	3
2B) What is Gloucestershire County Council and what is their role?.....	3
2C) What is Highways England and what is their role?.....	3
2D) What is Homes England?	4
2E) Is road building a priority?	4
2F) Does the positive funding announcement guarantee that the M5 Junction 10 improvements will happen?.....	4
2G) Is my land / property subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)?	4
2H) If the preferred option does not directly impact my property but the scheme generally impacts its value negatively, will I be compensated?	5
3) Having your say on the proposals	5
3A) What opportunities are there to have my say on the proposals?.....	5
3B) How do the scheme consultations adhere to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines?	5
3C) When will we hear the outcome of the non-statutory options consultation?	5
3D) Is this the only opportunity we will get to comment on the proposals?	6
4) Traffic and congestion	6
4A) Will the scheme reduce the congestion and queuing on the M5?.....	6
4B) What will happen to traffic if the motorway junction is upgraded?	6
5) Environment, ecology and surveys.....	6
5A) How does this scheme reflect the recent action plan set out as part of GCC's response to the UK Government Climate Emergency announcement?	6
5B) What type of environmental surveys will be undertaken on my land and why?	6
5C) I've been contacted about surveys, why do you want to survey my land?	7
6) Wider context	7
6A) Is this scheme connected to the A417 Missing Link scheme?	7
6B) Are the proposed improvements linked to the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme; UK Cyber Business Park (WCTIS)?.....	8
6C) Is there a link to the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme?	8
6D) There are works happening now on M5 Junction 11. Is there a link to the plans for Junction 10? ...	8
6E) How will the scheme impact the objectives outlined in the Joint Core Strategy?	8
6F) How were the housing and employment areas agreed?.....	8
6G) Will schools, community facilities, shops be built too, as well as the road?	9
6H) How will the Elms Park Development and A4109 Widening be developed together?	9

1) Scheme overview

1A) What does the scheme involve?

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) is currently working on an improvements scheme around M5 Junction 10. The scheme's aim is to remove constraints on the highway network and also ensure there is enough capacity to accommodate increases in traffic with the associated housing and employment growth in the area. The scheme will provide:

- Scheme element 1: Improvements to Junction 10 on the M5 and a new road linking Junction 10 to west Cheltenham;
- Scheme element 2: A38/A4019 Junction Improvements at Coombe Hill; and
- Scheme element 3: A4019 widening, east of Junction 10

1B) Isn't the upgrade to Arle Court Park and Ride included in this scheme?

An upgrade to Arle Court Park and Ride was included as part of the package of improvements funded by Homes England. Gloucestershire County Council has decided to take this forward through a different planning route meaning that this scheme will be progressed separately.

Arle Court Park and Ride (now known as Arle Court Transport Hub) will provide a more integrated transport network by enabling opportunities to switch to more sustainable transport modes around Cheltenham. The improvements to the existing Park and Ride site will have a real focus on sustainable transport and providing high quality alternatives to car use. The following objectives have been specifically developed for the Arle Court Transport Hub element of the scheme:

- Improve connectivity within, to and from the area by non-car modes. This includes planned housing and economic development sites in west and north-west Cheltenham;
- Improve connectivity to enable more journeys to central Cheltenham, the railway station and the hospital by sustainable modes of travel; and
- Provide a regular, reliable transport solution that enables a reduction in unnecessary car journeys into central Cheltenham.

Please check our [Major Projects site](#) for future progress updates on Arle Court Transport Hub.

1C) Why is the scheme needed?

New housing and employment sites are proposed for development close to Junction 10 of the M5. To unlock these proposed housing and job opportunities, we need to ensure that there is sufficient highway capacity to accommodate the increased motorised and non-motorised traffic it will generate.

An all movements junction has been identified as a key infrastructure requirement to enable the housing and economic development proposed by the [Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership's Strategic Economic Plan](#) and is central to the transport network sought by the council in our adopted [Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan](#).

The planned housing and economic growth have been included by Cheltenham Borough, Tewkesbury Borough and Gloucester City Councils in the adopted Joint Core Strategy. More information can be found [here](#).

Highways England has also identified in their Birmingham to Exeter Route Strategy that improvements to M5 Junction 10 are a critical requirement to maintain the safe and efficient operation of the M5 corridor, whilst enabling the planned development and economic growth around Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury.

1D) How have the scheme elements been selected?

For each scheme element, a process was followed that sifted a long list of options down to a shortlist, or in the cases of scheme elements 2 and 3, one suitable option proposal. The sifting process included assessment against the scheme objectives and high level engineering and environmental feasibility work.

2) Funding and planning

2A) Who is funding the scheme?

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) submitted a bid in March 2019 to Homes England for funding for the scheme. In March 2020 the council was informed that this bid had been successful.

2B) What is Gloucestershire County Council and what is their role?

Gloucestershire County Council is the Highway Authority for Gloucestershire. Alongside day-to-day highway and maintenance work and smaller improvements schemes, Gloucestershire County Council also undertakes major projects on key parts of the road network.

The M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme will be delivered by Gloucestershire County Council, with support from Highways England and Homes England.

2C) What is Highways England and what is their role?

Highways England is the government owned company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads. In the south west, its network totals 620 miles, and encompasses the M5 motorway amongst other major roads in Gloucestershire.

Highways England has been working closely with Gloucestershire County Council on the development of the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme to date and will continue to support it moving forward. Its formal role is that of a statutory consultee for the Gloucestershire County Council led scheme. For more information about Highways England, see [their website](#).

2D) What is Homes England?

Homes England is the government's housing agency. Gloucestershire County Council is working with Homes England to secure infrastructure funding. They have the appetite, influence, expertise and resources to drive positive market change. By using their investment products to drive market change and releasing more land to developers who want to make a difference, they are making possible the new homes that England needs and helping to improve neighbourhoods and grow communities.

The Housing Infrastructure Fund is administered and monitored by Homes England. The programme is helping to deliver up to 300,000 new homes across England by providing local authorities with grant funding for new infrastructure, to unlock homes in areas of greatest housing demand.

For more information about Homes England, see [their website](#).

2E) Is road building a priority?

Without this investment, transport modelling has shown that journey time and congestion in the local area will increase if improvements to the junction are not made. The funds are ring-fenced for infrastructure to unlock new housing developments and cannot be spent on routine maintenance. These funds are additional to the highways budgets that GCC spend on routine maintenance of county roads.

2F) Does the positive funding announcement guarantee that the M5 Junction 10 improvements will happen?

The successful funding bid announced by Homes England does not mean that the scheme will automatically go ahead. The proposed improvements to M5 Junction 10 are still subject to planning permission. Prior to submission of a planning application, the public had the chance to provide their feedback on the scheme during the non-statutory options consultation (14 October to 25 November 2020) and will be able to again through a statutory consultation which will follow a preferred route announcement in mid 2021.

After this statutory consultation in 2021 we will do further work to confirm our scheme before applying for planning consent. If planning consent is granted work is planned to commence on site in 2023 and the scheme is planned to be completed and open for traffic in late 2024.

2G) Is my land / property subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)?

To date, no CPOs have been made to acquire any land for this scheme. This is a lengthy, statutory process. What is right for GCC to do now for a project of this size, is to agree a resolution in principle that they can exercise these powers, if required, to deliver the scheme. It always remains the case that, where any third-party land is required to deliver highway works, the council's clear preference is a negotiated settlement route.

Landowners that might be affected by one or more of our scheme elements were offered meetings in the lead up to the non-statutory options consultation (14 October to 25 November 2020). We will continue to work closely with these people throughout the scheme's development.

2H) If the preferred option does not directly impact my property but the scheme generally impacts its value negatively, will I be compensated?

In this case we would follow the Part 1 claims process for injurious affection. As stated on the Government website, the right of an owner to compensation in respect of severance and injurious affection derives from section 7 Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (CPA 1965) which states that: "...regard shall be had not only to the value of the land to be purchased by the acquiring authority but also to the damage, if any, to be sustained by the owner of the land by reason of the severing of the land from the other land of the owner, or otherwise injuriously affecting the other land...".

For more information on this please see the information on the Government's website.

3) Having your say on the proposals

3A) What opportunities are there to have my say on the proposals?

The non-statutory options consultation (14 October to 25 November 2020) was the first time that the public and other stakeholders were able to view and comment on our proposals. Feedback from this consultation will help shape the scheme going forward, including:

- Identifying a preferred option for the new Junction 10 design and link road; and
- Ensuring that our proposed improvements at Coombe Hill and along the A4019 work for you and the local community.

The responses to the consultation will be combined with the findings from further technical work which will then inform the decisions that are made for the preferred route. The consultation findings and analysis will be published in mid 2021.

3B) How do the scheme consultations adhere to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines?

To ensure that Government guidelines are adhered to and to maintain the safety of the public and our staff, the non-statutory options consultation (14 October to 25 November 2020) was held 'virtually' as far as possible, with the consultation website as the main source of information. No public share events or face to face meetings were held.

To ensure that all members of the public were able to participate in the consultation, a number of measures were put in place to make our approach as accessible as possible.

These included the ability to request hard copy materials to be sent to your home and the ability to provide consultation feedback by post or phone.

The approach to the statutory consultation, to be held after the Preferred Route Announcement (mid 2021), will be considered in line with COVID-19 social distancing guidelines at the time.

3C) When will we hear the outcome of the non-statutory options consultation?

We will be publishing a report on the public consultation which will provide a summary of all the feedback and how this is supporting the technical work to develop the scheme. Please keep a look out [here](#) during mid 2021 for the report.

3D) Is this the only opportunity we will get to comment on the proposals?

There will be other opportunities to provide feedback as the scheme progresses. Following a preferred route announcement in mid 2021 there will be an opportunity to comment on the detailed proposals for the preferred route, through statutory consultation, currently planned for late 2021.

You can contact M5Junction10@atkinsglobal.com at any time and our team will do their best to assist you.

4) Traffic and congestion

4A) Will the scheme reduce the congestion and queuing on the M5?

Yes. Work done on modelling journey time and congestion demonstrates that the improvements will improve the operation of the motorway junction and reduce queuing.

4B) What will happen to traffic if the motorway junction is upgraded?

Providing a more direct route from the M5 to north and west Cheltenham will also take traffic, particularly at peak times, away from inappropriate local roads on the west side of the town, such as Princess Elizabeth Way. This will improve journey times for local users and provide positive quality of life benefits in terms of noise and air quality.

5) Environment, ecology and surveys

5A) How does this scheme reflect the recent action plan set out as part of GCC's response to the UK Government Climate Emergency announcement?

We are committed to creating a sustainable future. We jointly hosted a Climate Change Summit in May 2019 with the GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership, and as a result, we will be updating our Climate Change Strategy for the county. For more information, and to view our previous Corporate Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, visit [this webpage](#).

As a local authority, it is our role to ensure that anyone who lives, works or travels through Gloucestershire is prepared for the impacts of climate change; that's why it's important that we invest in, maintain and improve Gloucestershire's transport network, however, we recognise that this should not be at great expense to the local environment.

Our Local Transport Plan (LTP) is also in the process of being updated, and as part of this, we are considering decarbonising road and rail freight by 2050.

Compared to continuing to use the existing road network without the scheme in place, the M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme may result in a reduction in emissions due to the removal of vehicles on local roads. It has also been agreed that developer contributions will go towards funding sustainable transport, as well as pedestrian and cycle links to key centres.

5B) What type of environmental surveys will be undertaken on my land and why?

Ecology/environmental surveys will help us to understand what wildlife and habitats are present, and whether there are any protected species that need to be considered when developing designs.

The type of survey depends on the nature of your land, for example if it contains ponds or lakes, hedges or woodland or flowing water or rivers, surveys may include:

- Bats: A survey conducted on foot at dusk or dawn to record bat activity.
- Dormice: A survey involving the deployment of plastic/wood nest tubes in woodland hedgerow and scrub habitats, which are then checked at regular intervals for signs of dormice.
- Otter and Water Vole: A survey conducted on foot to search watercourses for signs of use by otter and water vole.
- Breeding and wintering birds: A survey conducted on foot to assess the presence of breeding and wintering birds.
- Reptiles: A survey involving the deployment of artificial refuges (usually small pieces of roofing material) in suitable grassland habitats, which are then checked to search for basking reptiles.
- Habitat suitability and Environmental DNA (eDNA): A survey conducted on foot to assess suitability of habitats for great crested newts and collect water samples from suitable waterbodies.
- Invertebrates: A walkover survey to assess habitat suitability for invertebrates.
- Hedgerows: A walkover survey to assess hedgerow habitats.
- Invasive plants: A walkover survey to search for invasive non-native species of plants.

If we have contacted you about undertaking surveys on your land, someone from our survey coordination team will be in touch ahead of surveys taking place to provide you with more details about the survey specifics and to reconfirm your consent.

5C) I've been contacted about surveys, why do you want to survey my land?

Ecology / environmental surveys are being carried-out on all land that falls close to any scheme element. Surveying this area will allow us to track and understand wildlife movements that occur in the vicinity of our proposals.

6) Wider context

6A) Is this scheme connected to the A417 Missing Link scheme?

No, although we are working closely with Highways England, the two consultations are not related. Highways England's A417 Missing Link consultation was a supplementary statutory consultation for the scheme which ran from 13 October – 12 November 2020.

Having used feedback from the previous consultation in 2019, Highways England have made some changes to their design to improve local connectivity and reduce the overall impact on communities and the environment.

Although unlinked, both consultations related to major schemes that are in their development phase.

6B) Are the proposed improvements linked to the West Cheltenham Transport Improvement Scheme; UK Cyber Business Park (WCTIS)?

The proposed improvements around M5 junction 10 are separate to WCTIS, which is being funded through the Gloucestershire First Local Enterprise Partnership (Gfirst LEP) Growth Deal. Both schemes are complementary and will deliver highway improvements that will improve connectivity around Gloucestershire. You can find more information about WCTIS [here](#).

6C) Is there a link to the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme?

Our improvements proposed around M5 Junction 10 are separate to the M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport Scheme. In early 2020 GCC applied to the Department for Transport (DfT) for Large Local Majors (LLM) funding to finance the proposed M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) transport scheme. As required with LLM funding, 15% of the scheme cost will be met through local or third- party contributions.

6D) There are works happening now on M5 Junction 11. Is there a link to the plans for Junction 10?

The M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme is planned to be open to traffic in 2024. Whilst we make every effort to co-ordinate works to ensure the network remains safe and serviceable, essential maintenance projects have to happen now. During autumn/ winter 2020 three major schemes affecting the network in Gloucestershire will begin. These are led by Highways England and include:

- Works to improve the Staverton Overbridge, a structure that crosses the M5 between Junctions 10 and 11;
- Junction 11 Golden Valley gyratory bridge refurbishment; and
- Resurfacing for the M5 between Junctions 10 and 11 in early 2021.

6E) How will the scheme impact the objectives outlined in the Joint Core Strategy?

The JCS transport strategy sets out that by 2031, considering all the development allocations set out in the JCS, an all movements Junction 10 will be required. The funding decision will have a direct impact on delivery of the JCS objectives. Without the funding from Homes England, improvements to the motorway cannot be made at present; this may impact on the level of development that can be delivered. The local planning authorities are in close engagement with both GCC and Highways England and have worked as key partners in the delivery of the bid.

6F) How were the housing and employment areas agreed?

The homes and employment areas are in the Joint Core Strategy - agreed between the three local planning authorities, Cheltenham Borough, Tewkesbury Borough and Gloucester City councils. The JCS forms part of the statutory development plan for these areas.

6G) Will schools, community facilities, shops be built too, as well as the road?

Yes, they will in the context of the schemes being promoted for north west and west Cheltenham. The JCS, sets out the planning policy for these areas, which includes schools, community facilities, shops etc.

6H) How will the Elms Park Development and A4109 Widening be developed together?

The Elms Park Development is a live planning application which currently proposes to dual the A4019 between the Fire Station near Homecroft Drive and Gallagher Retail Park. To avoid providing conflicting information with the Elm Parks Development, we are currently not showing any proposals past the fire station. We are working closely with the Elms Park Development team to ensure that there is continuity and consistency along the A4019 to Gallagher Retail Park and that both schemes are constructed with the lowest impact on existing users. Tewkesbury Borough Council provide further information and links to the Elms Park planning application where plans and other additional information can be found, including details of the developer's proposals to dual the A4019 via the following website: <https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/elms-park-development>