

# A127

## *Engagement Group*

23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023



## Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview
3. Policy Context
4. A127 Major Road Network (MRN)
5. A127 Re-trunking
6. A127/A130 Fairglen Interchange Improvements
7. Next Steps



# Welcome and Introductions



# Overview



Central Government (Departments DfT, DBIS & DLUHC)

**A127 Engagement Group – Chaired by ECC**

- Members, MPs
- Businesses/Business Groups
- Project Support Team (ECC/EH)

*Numbers: 15-20 (max)  
Plus: Invited Officer Guests*

***Lobbying and Strategic  
Negotiation***

**Local Member Update Forum**

- ECC local Members
- District Members
- Town and Parish Councils
- Project Support Team

**A127 Officer Working Group - Chaired by Billy Parr (ECC)**

- Officers (County/District/Borough/Unitaries)
- Project Support Team (ECC/EH)

*Numbers 12-15 (max)  
Plus: Invited Guests*

***Technical  
Workstreams***

Transport East:

1. TE Forum
2. Transport East Senior Officers Group (TESOG)

NH/ECC Strategic  
Collaboration Board

South Essex  
Councils (SEC -  
formerly ASELA)

Opportunity South  
Essex (OSE)

***Feeder  
Groups***

## The Key Issues for ECC

Re-trunking

Partner Buy In

Financing  
Strategy

Option  
Development

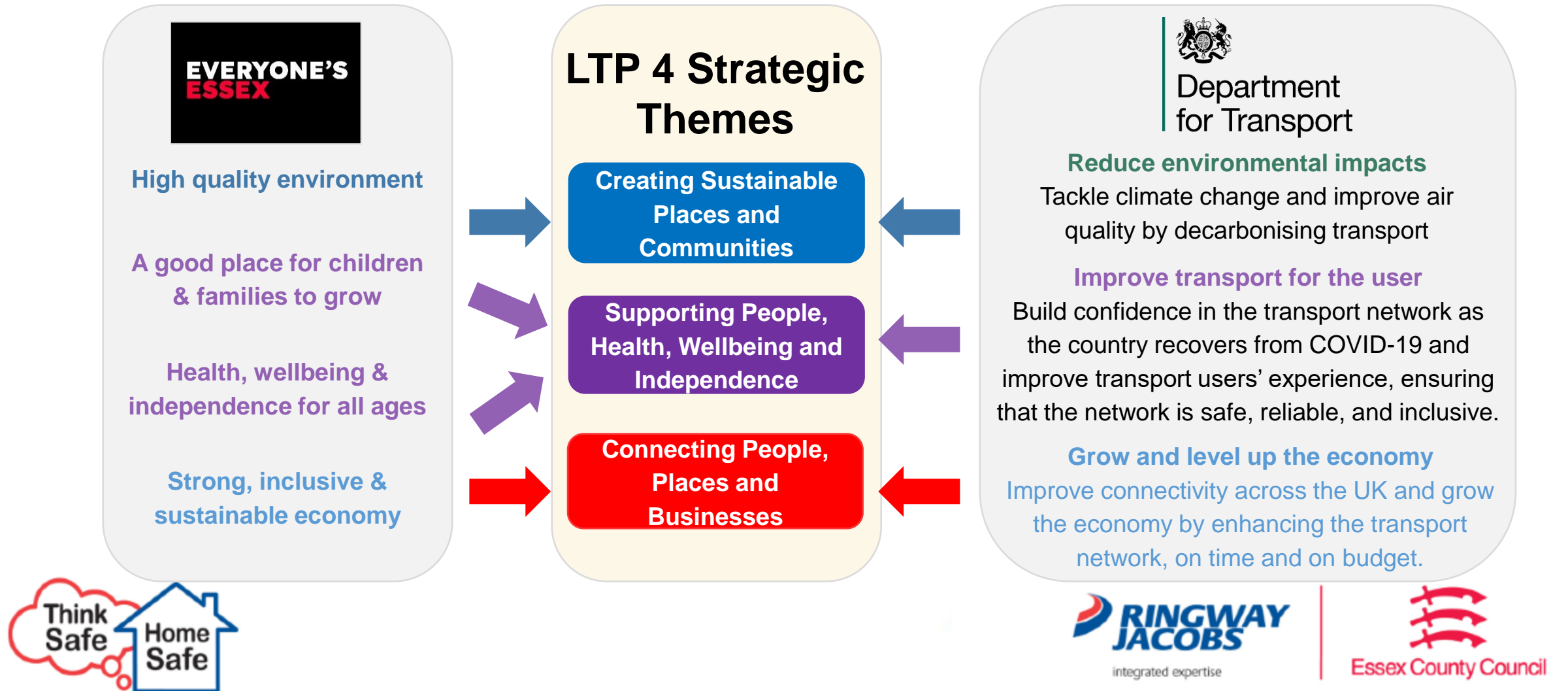
Coordination of  
activities



# Policy Context



### Links with local and national policy



# Local Transport Plan Outcomes

**Overarching** - Understand the travel needs of people and businesses in Essex to raise awareness of the travel options people have and to enable more sustainable choices and journeys to be made

## 1. Supporting People, Health, Wellbeing, and Independence

- a) People have inclusive and affordable access to key services.
- b) Improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- c) The transport network is safe, and feels safe, for all users

## 2. Creating Sustainable Places and Communities

- a) All places support the transport needs of all residents
- b) Work with appropriate partners to design sustainable developments from the start
- c) Reduce transport's impact on the environment

## 3. Connecting People, Places and Businesses

- a) Maximising the business potential of Essex
- b) People have inclusive and affordable access to education, employment & training
- c) Transport network has a secure and long-term future



## Future Transport Strategy

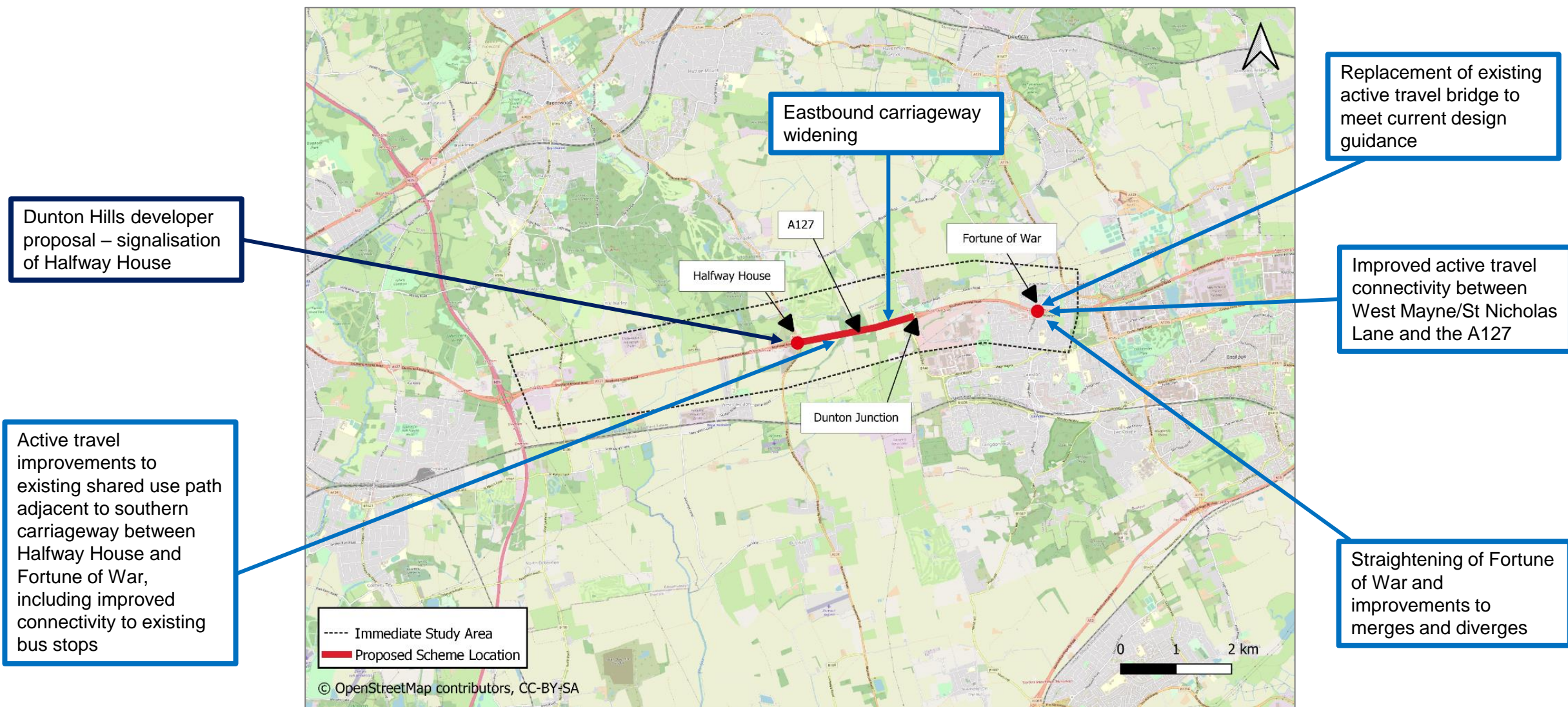
- Propose to develop a future transport strategy for South Essex
- To be developed alongside LTP4
- Will incorporate previous work looking at the A127 economic growth corridor
  - Plus ASELA (now SEC) Transport and Connectivity Workstream
- Workshops to be held with partners
- Interventions split into type of trip and mode, then prioritised according to strategic fit, cost and deliverability
- Will inform an Implementation Plan for South Essex
  - Draft required by DfT in Spring 2024
- Will also inform future Local Plans



# A127 Major Road Network Improvements



## Major Road Network Improvements

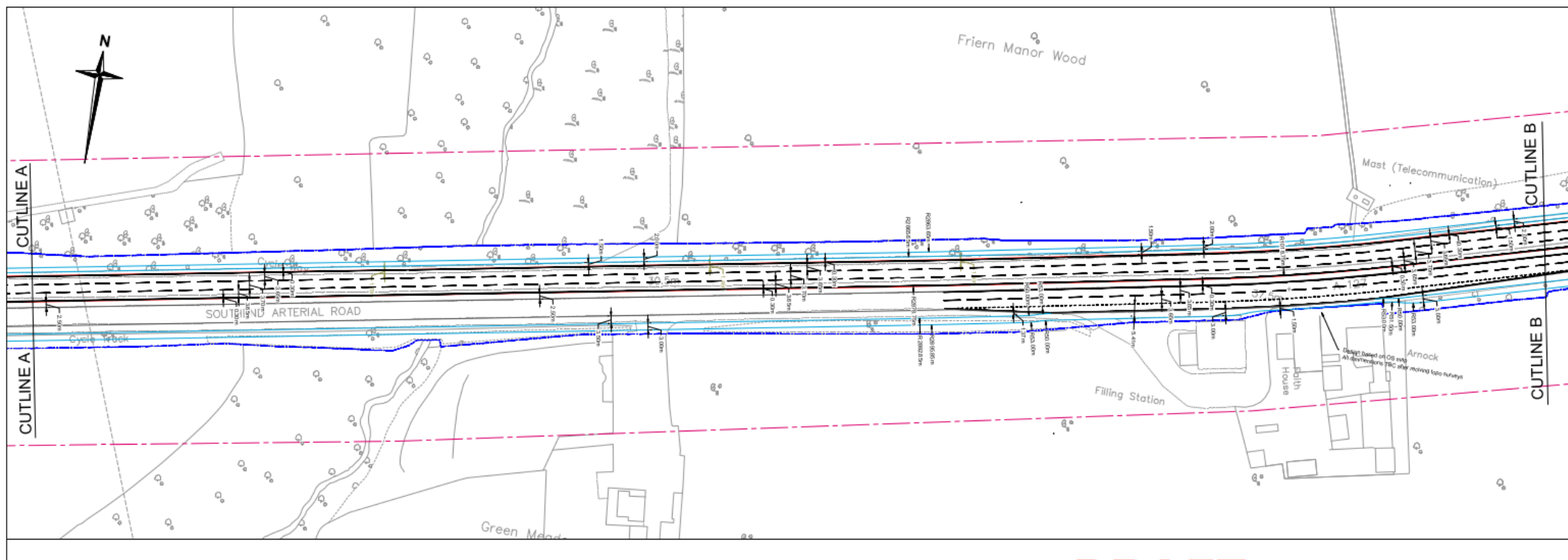


# Major Road Network Improvements

## Scheme objectives

- **Manage journey time reliability and improve resilience to** maximise the efficiency of the road network and reduce transport costs through change in average delay through Fortune of War and the A127 between Halfway House and Dunton.
- **Support the delivery of housing and employment.** High active mode share for proposed development enabled through connections created by the scheme.
- **Improving connectivity and access for sustainable modes** on and across the A127 corridor. Ensure that holistic and high-quality cycling, walking and public transport measures are embedded in the scheme. Design a scheme that provides safe and comfortable routes for cycling and walking along and across the A127 and explore options to provide bus priority wherever possible.
- **Manage air quality** Provide infrastructure that permits sustainable travel, including walking, cycling and public transport, to remove cars from the road and reduce air pollution.

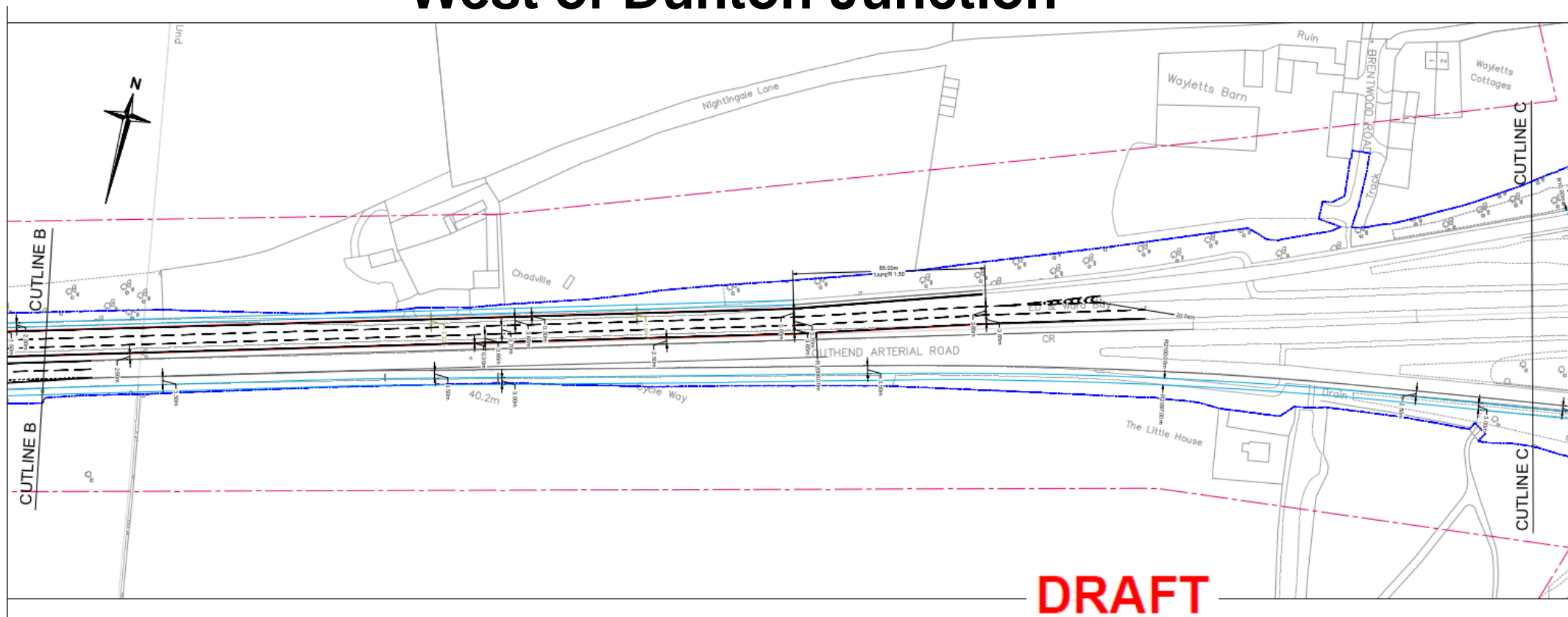
## East of Halfway House



**DRAFT**

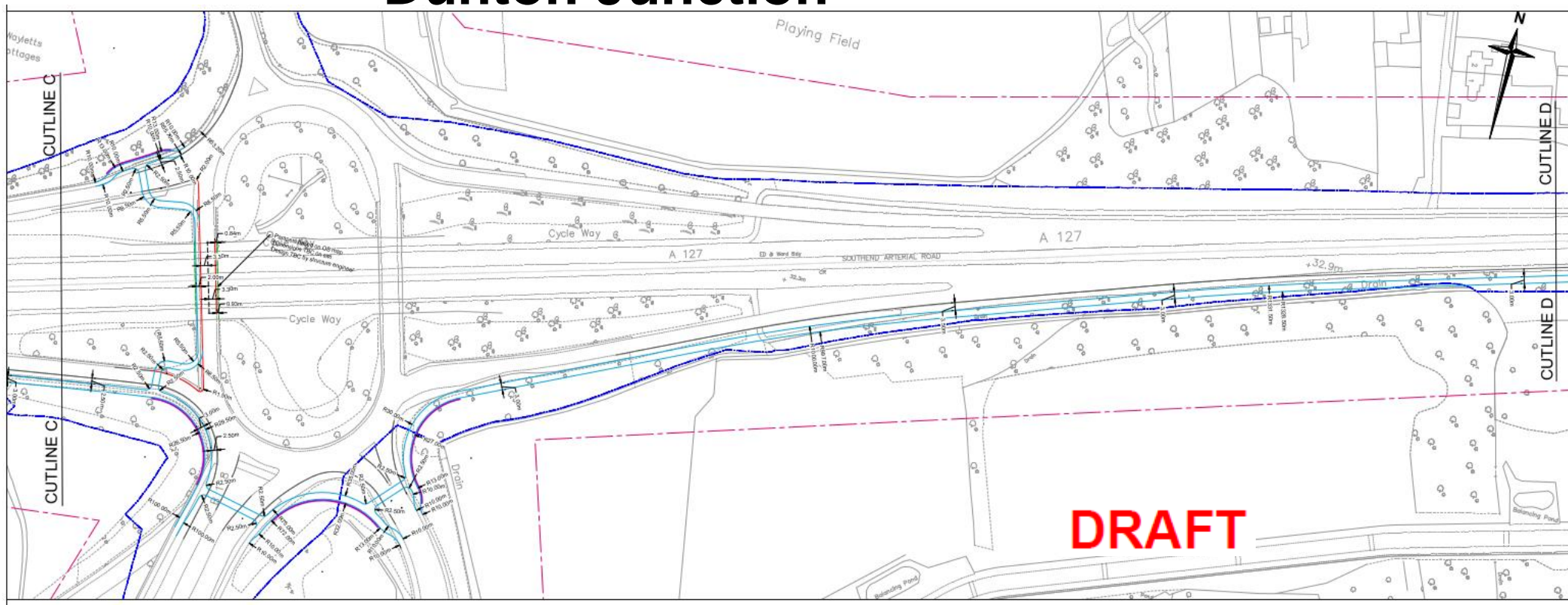
Proposed additional eastbound lane and improvements to existing shared use path adjacent to southern carriageway to provide betterment to active travel

## West of Dunton Junction



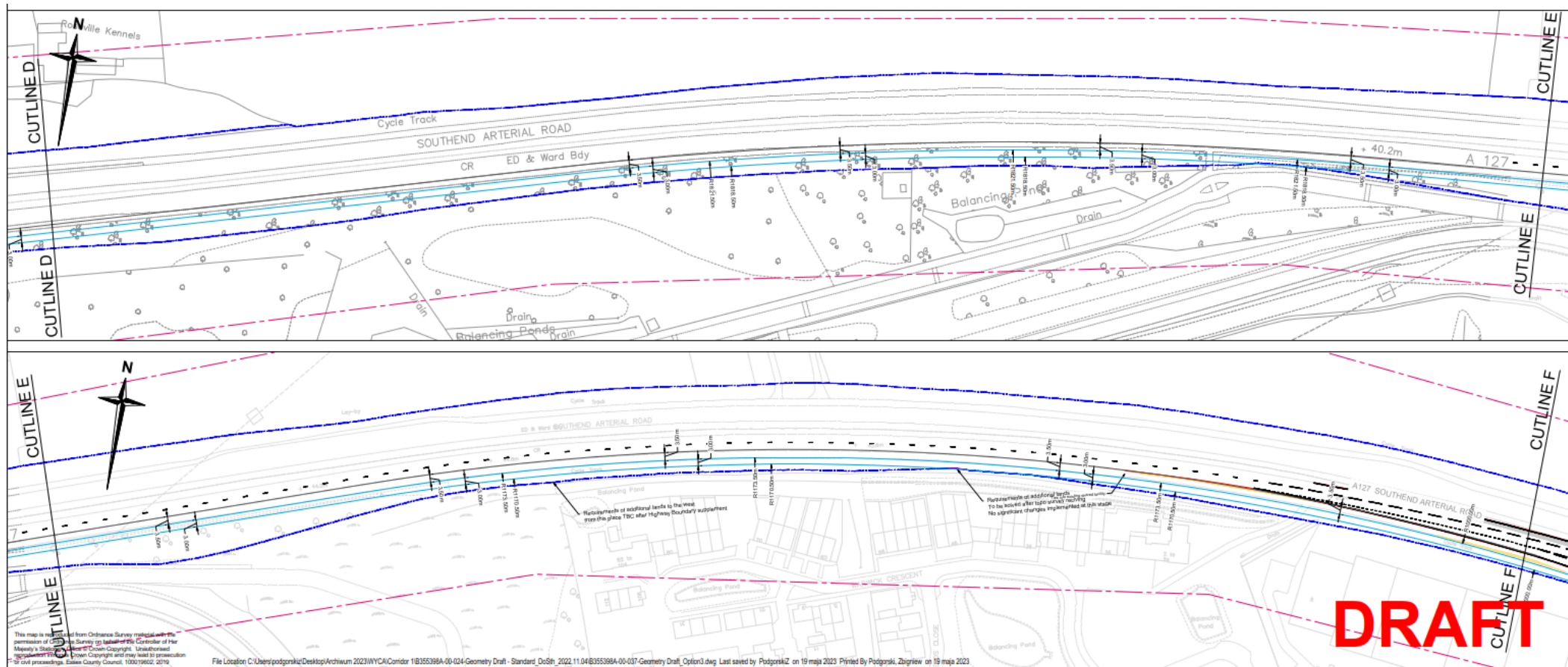
Proposed additional eastbound lane and improvements to existing shared use path adjacent to southern carriageway to provide betterment to active travel

## Dunton Junction



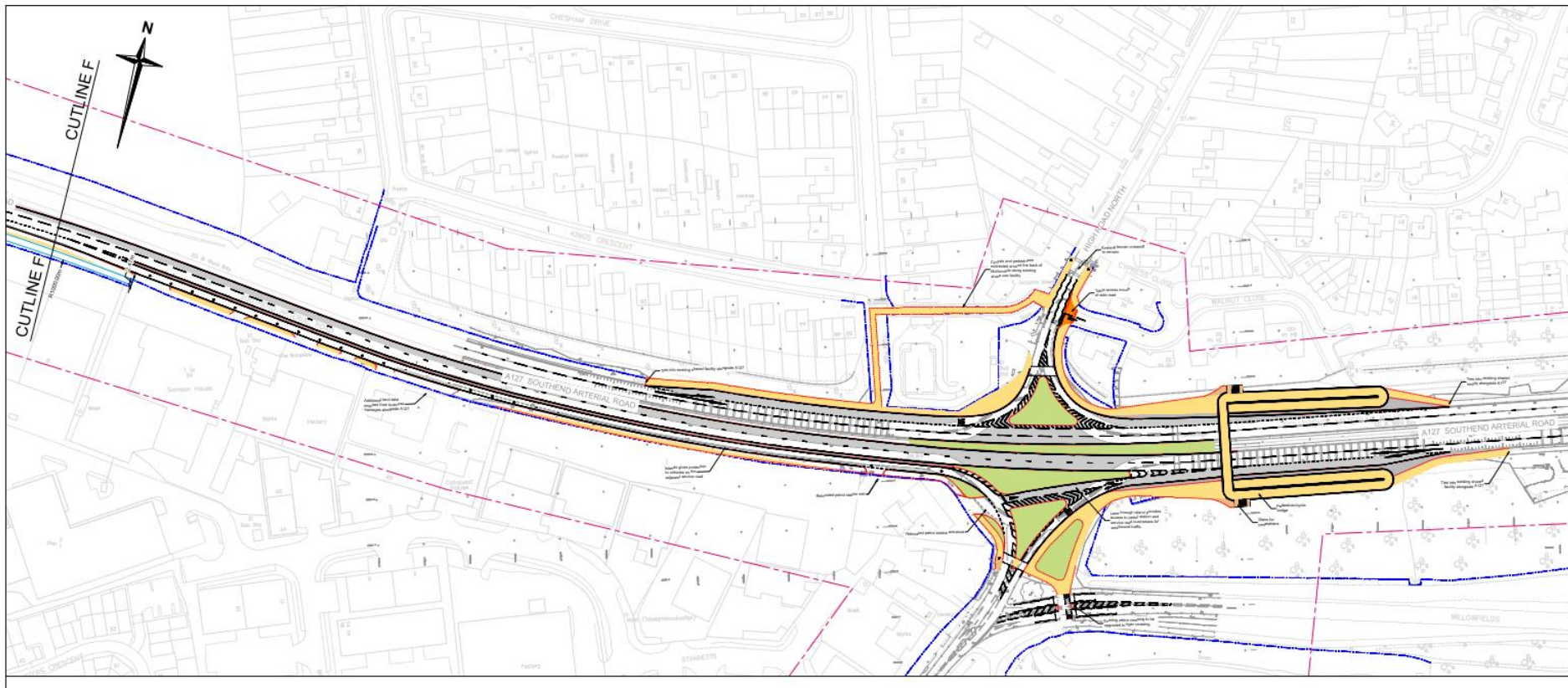
Improvements to existing shared use path adjacent to southern carriageway to provide betterment to active travel including new shared use path on slip roads and additional safe crossings of side roads to prevent unsafe crossing of slip roads.

## Dunton Junction to Fortune of War



Improvements to existing shared use path adjacent to southern carriageway to provide betterment to active travel.

## Fortune of War junction



Straightening of Fortune of War Junction, including improved merges and diverges and provision of new westbound service lane, improvements to active travel paths and crossings and new replacement active travel bridge crossing the A127. Additional improvements to the quality of active travel links between FoW junction and Basildon are also planned.

## Indicative Programme

- Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) – January 2024\*
- Submit Planning Application – September 2024
- Outline Business Case (OBC) – January 2025
- Full Business Case (FBC) – December 2025
- Start of works – Spring 2026
- Completion – Autumn 2028
- Work will be split into phases

\*current target

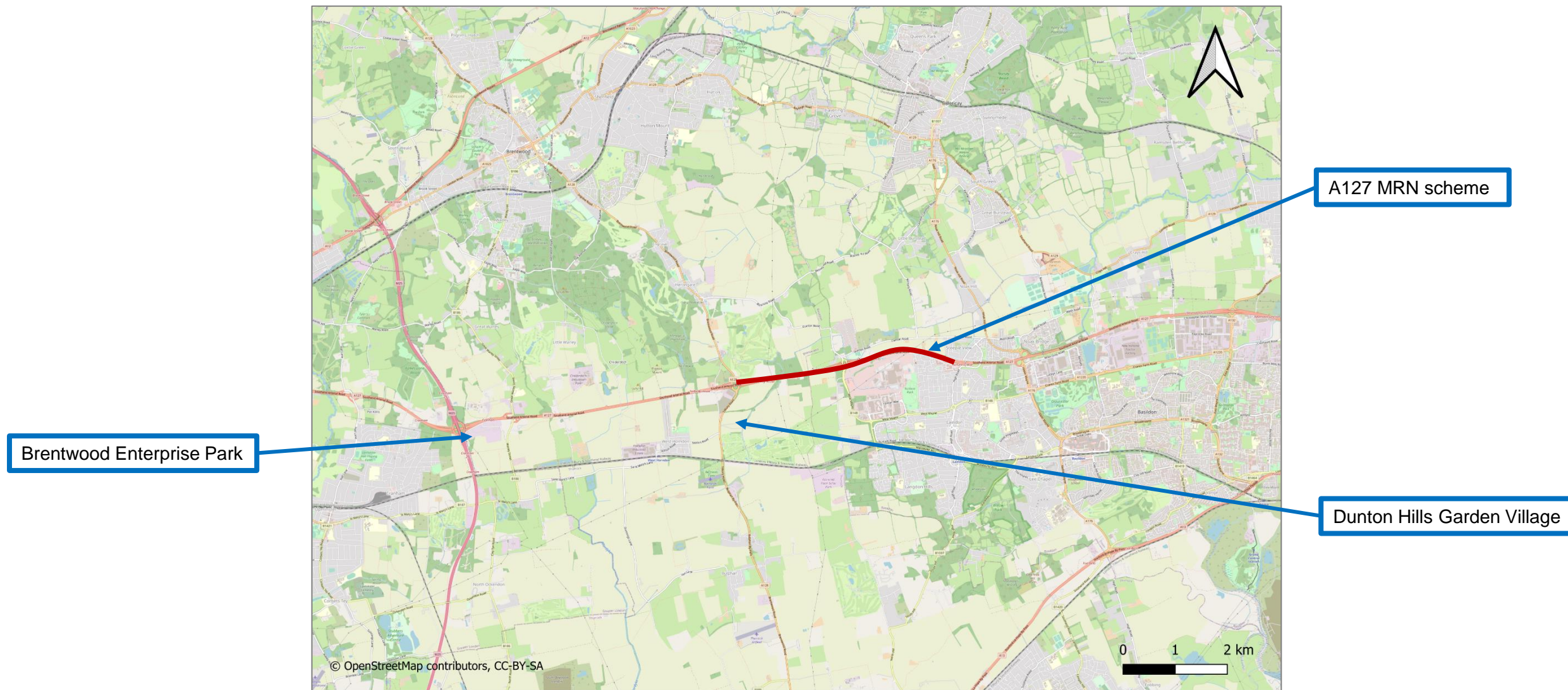


## Key Risks

- Programme - Challenging overall delivery programme that includes:
  - 3 DfT review periods (2x six months, 1x three months for Business Case stages)
  - Planning Application(s)
  - MRN Funding less certain beyond March 2025
- Costs
  - ECC needs to secure 15% local contribution (Approx £7.5m)
- Scope
  - Uncertainty around development proposals



## Nearby Developments



## Brentwood Enterprise Park

- Located by South East Corner of M25 junction 29
- Access from Jct 29 via Codham Hall Lane, via new bridge over the A127
- Access and exit via new junction on B186
- New bridge over A127 in order to provide dual carriageway for B186
- Widening of slip roads
- Sustainable Transport Infrastructure
- Planning committee December 2023



## Dunton Hills Garden Village

- Located south east of Halfway House junction
- Walking and cycling link to the north including new bridge over the A127
- Access and exit via 3x new junctions on A128
- Halfway House junction improvements including signalisation
- Sustainable transport links (including to West Horndon station)
- Planning committee 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023 (in Principle)



# Re-trunking Update



## A127 Re-Trunking Latest Position

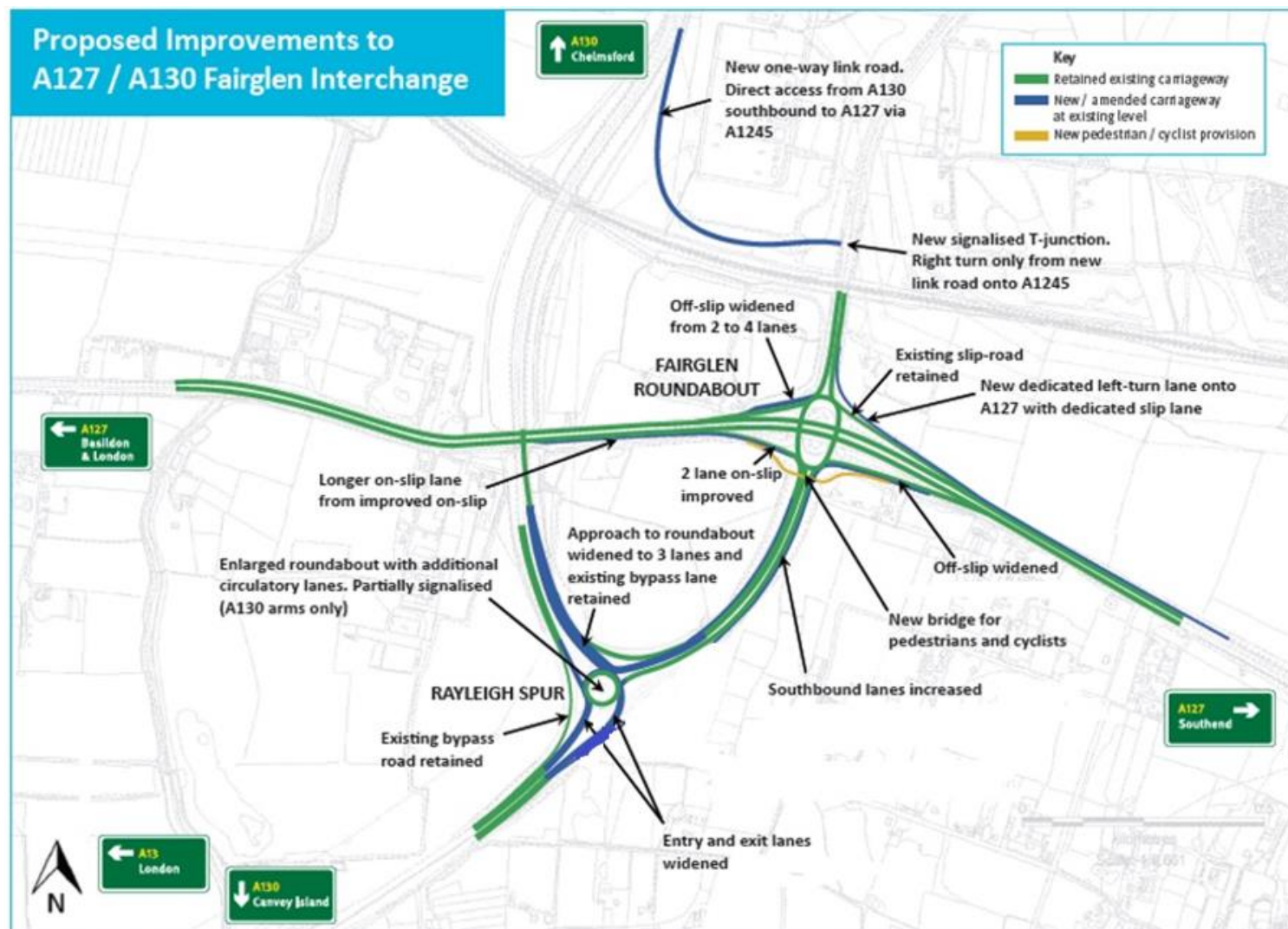
1. A127 was originally de-trunked in 1997 due to Government policy at the time to de-trunk routes giving increased local accountability
2. Submitted data to re-trunk the route (August 2021) with data ranging from numbers of road studs to structures to protected plant species
3. Meeting with DfT January 2023, follow up with National Highways July 2023: most of A127 unlikely to be re-trunked, A13 priority instead
4. ECC has responded to RIS3 consultation
5. DfT/NH have responded



# A127/A130 Fairglen



### A127 Fairglen Interchange



## Indicative Programme

- Publish Compulsory Purchase Order - January 2022
- Confirm Order – November 2022
- End of High Court Challenge Period (CPO) – July 2023
- Tenderers reconfirm pricing – October 2023
- Final Business Case Sign Off – March 2024\*
- Contract Award – Spring 2024\*
- Site Access Date – Summer 2024\*
- Current assumption is 2 years to construct



\* TBC due to uncertainty about funding – see key risks slide

## Key Risks

### Costs

- Following the repricing exercise, as expected the tender returns are higher than previous submissions which will create an increased funding gap

### Third Parties and Land

- Land issues and objections resolved



# Next Steps



## Next Steps:

- Local Transport Plan 4 preparation
- South Essex Future Transport Strategy and draft Implementation Plan
- Develop MRN Strategic Outline Case
- Prepare Final Business Case for Fairglen
- Next dates for the A127 Member Engagement Group TBC