

Epsom Plan E Highway Improvements



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“Securing a successful future for Epsom Town Centre”

A package of measures for Epsom Town Centre to reduce congestion, improve safety and enhance the attractiveness of the town centre.

Welcome

Background



As the main town centre in the Borough, Epsom plays a vital role in the community, being the focus for a range of services and activities. Like most town centres, it faces a variety of challenges and pressures.

WHAT IS PLAN E?

Epsom 'Plan E' refers to the **Area Action Plan (AAP) adopted by the Borough Council in 2011**. The Plan E AAP is a long term strategy for the town centre and provides a framework for future change in Epsom up to 2026. As a long term development plan, it will help deliver the Borough Council's objectives and aspirations for the town centre. It builds on the vision for the town centre set out in the **Borough's Core Strategy adopted in 2007**.

Epsom has seen significant change and this is likely to continue. It is therefore important to plan to ensure that Epsom reaches its full potential and **remains a vibrant and distinctive place where people want to visit, work, live and study**.

The **Epsom Plan E Highway Improvements** scheme has been developed to reduce the impact of congestion in Epsom town centre.

WHAT DOES THE SCHEME AIM TO ACHIEVE?

The highway improvements included under Plan E aim to deliver the vision of the town centre Area Action Plan and promote economic growth by reducing congestion, improving accessibility and enhancing the quality and attractiveness of the town centre with safe and convenient pedestrian movements.

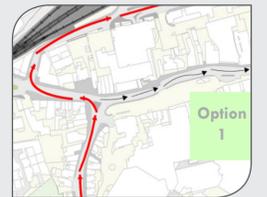
The Epsom Plan E highway improvements scheme seeks to address the dominance of the A24 traffic over pedestrian accessibility and provide uncluttered and attractive streets.



SCHEME HISTORY

The Plan E Area Action Plan **consultation in 2008/09** considered 3 options to reconfigure the highway network through the town centre. These were:

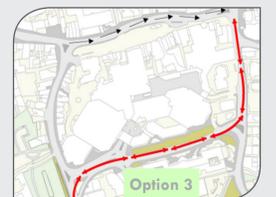
Option 1: Make High Street (West) accessible to buses and cyclists only, by diverting traffic via Station Approach.



PREFERRED OPTION

Option 2: Return South Street to two-way traffic to shorten some journeys.

Option 3: Make Ashley Road and Ashley Avenue two-way. High Street (West) would be accessible to buses and cyclists.



Highway and traffic feasibility design has discounted Options 1 and 3 due to required land take, high costs and required demolition of properties, some of which are nationally or locally listed. Delivery of either Option 1 or 3 is therefore considered impractical and detrimental to the town centre's historic environment.

Existing Situation

MOVEMENT & ACCESSIBILITY

To maintain a successful and healthy town centre it needs to be accessible by a variety of means of transport and have an attractive pedestrian environment.

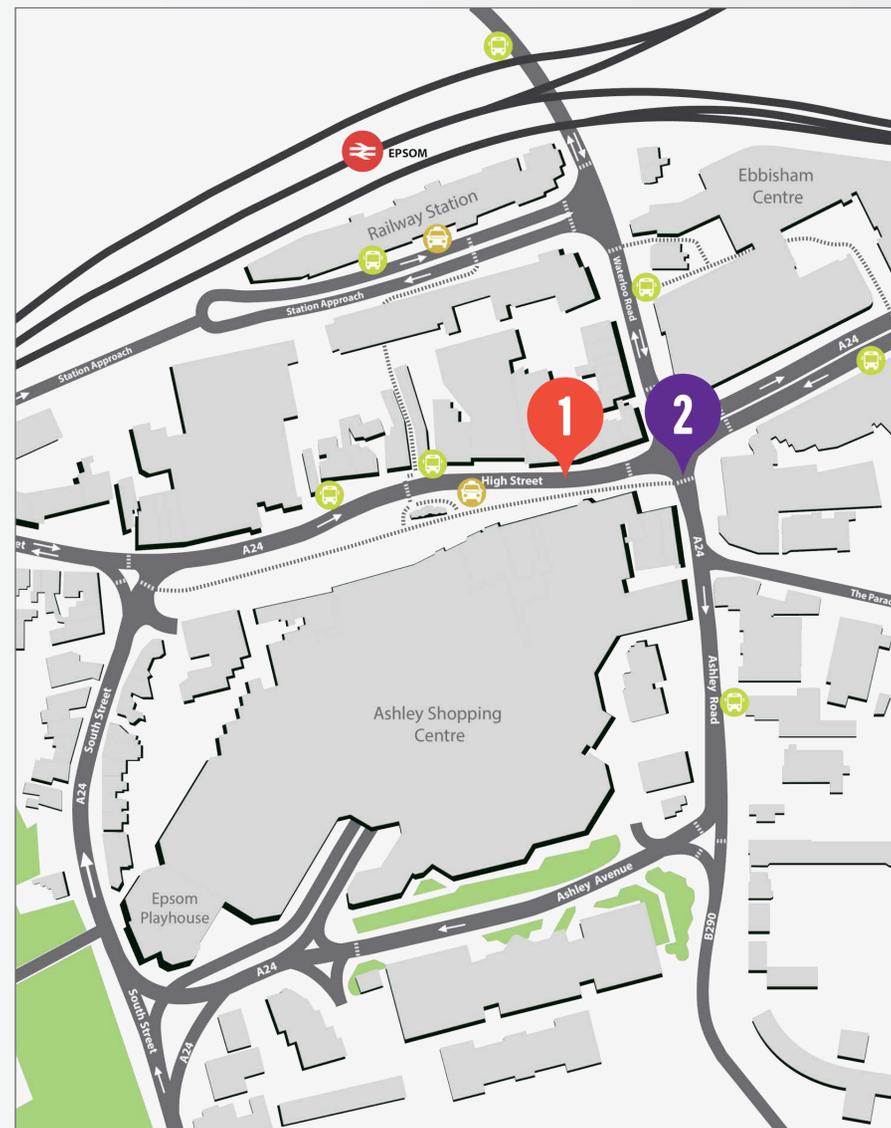
The following competing demands and challenges have been identified:

1 High traffic volumes and illegal parking leads to **traffic congestion** during peak periods, resulting in excessive delays and unpredictable journey times. This **traffic dominance** has a detrimental impact on the town centre.



Vehicles queuing to turn right from the High Street to Ashley Road result in:

- congestion & delays to High Street traffic,
- traffic flow problems (due to close proximity of signals)
- stop-start conditions make it difficult for buses to pull out from the bus stand / bus stops, and
- stationary vehicles encourage some pedestrians to cross between queuing traffic.

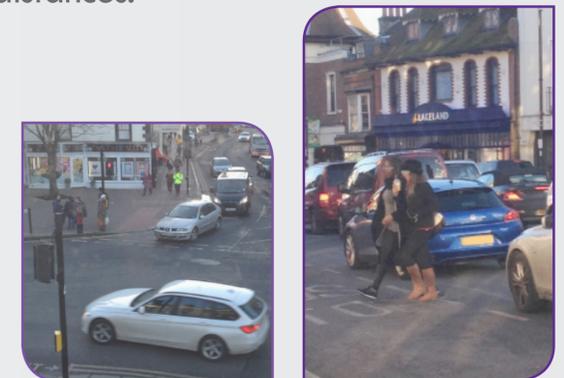


Markings show indicative locations

2 Compared with other Surrey towns, Epsom has the highest number of **pedestrian accidents** per km² and the highest percentage of accidents for vulnerable road users.

The Spread Eagle junction has the highest number of accidents in Epsom. Contributory factors include:

- traffic conditions,
- parked vehicles & lane changing,
- close proximity of Ashley Centre crossing,
- pedestrian behaviour, and
- wide crossing distances.



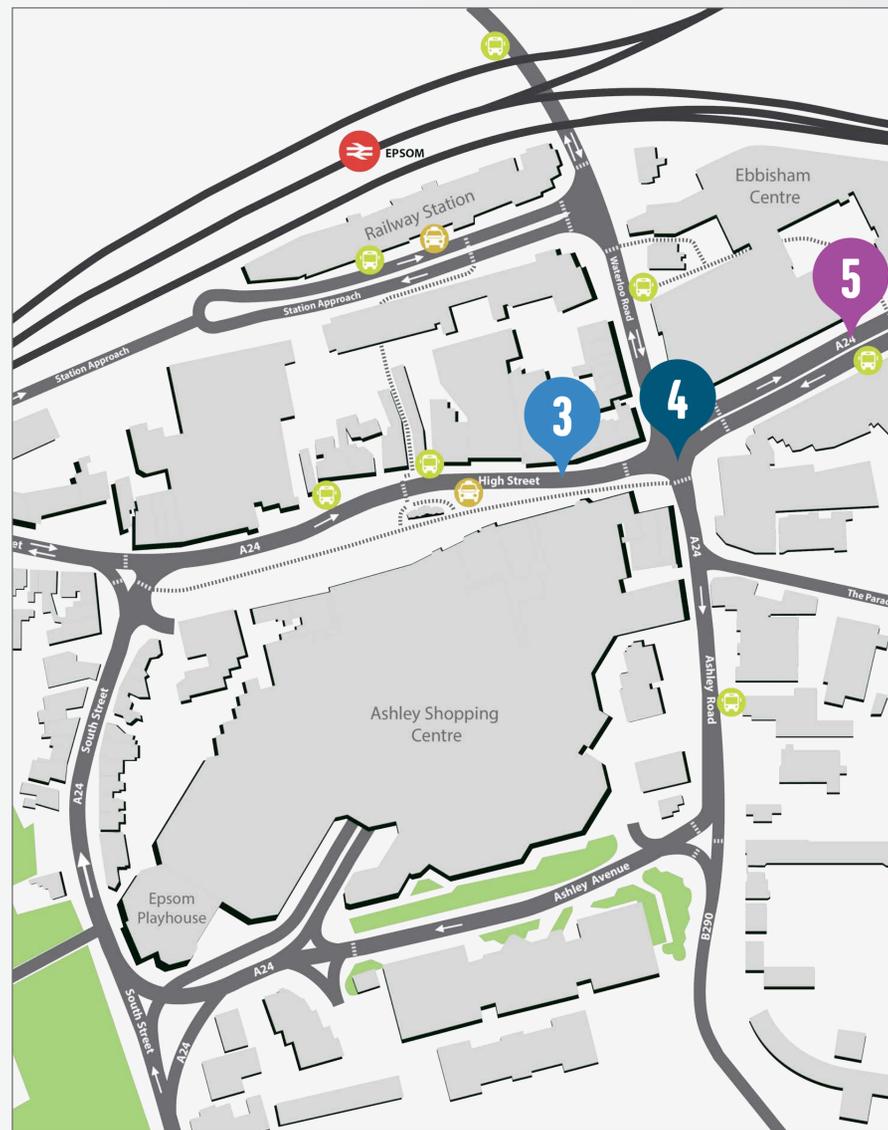
Existing Situation

APPEARANCE & PERFORMANCE

Other competing demands and challenges include:

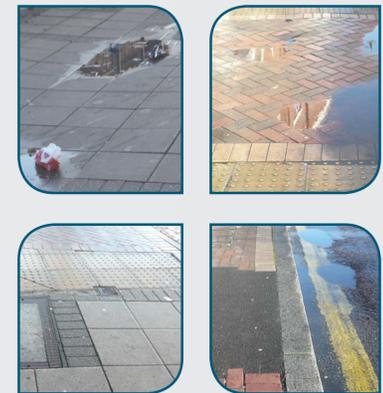
3 A recent street audit highlighted various **town centre appearance** issues including:

- poor condition and quality of materials,
- unnecessary street furniture clutter leading to an untidy appearance and hazards for the visually or mobility impaired,
- under utilisation of existing public spaces, and
- poor appearance of certain buildings.



Markings show indicative locations

4 The town centre is well provided for in terms of pedestrian routes. However, traffic congestion creates **barriers to movement** at key junctions. The signing and maintenance of some routes is also perceived as poor.



Recent surveys revealed that the Spread Eagle junction accommodates nearly **40,000 daily pedestrian crossing and 25,000 vehicle movements**.

5 Epsom has been a successful centre for economic activity, the recent lack of commercial and retail development has hindered its **economic performance** and it is now vulnerable to decline due to:

- poor transport / accessibility to the town centre,
- lack of suitable office space, and
- low quality town centre appearance.



SOUTH STREET TWO WAY



The scheme will include the following highway improvements to the town centre:

A West St/High St/South St Jct

- Provide right turn into South Street
- Maintain crossing facilities

B South Street

- Two lanes northbound and one southbound
- Restrict parking and loading times on southbound lane

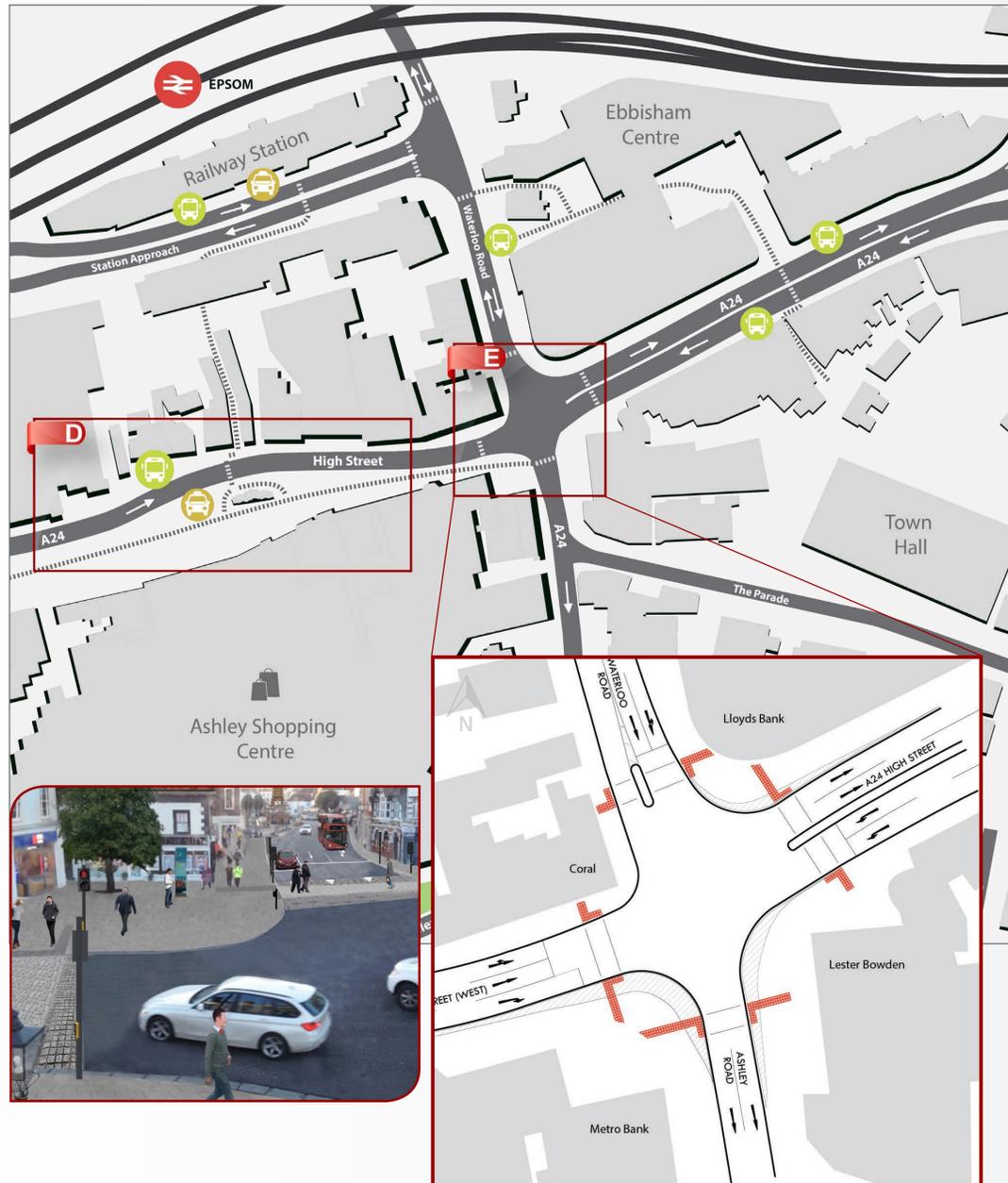
C Playhouse Junction

- New layout to provide southbound movement
- Access to Ashley Centre Car Park from South Street
- Main movements under signal control (South Street, A24, Ashley Avenue)
- Provides full crossing facilities

Benefits

Making South Street two way provides an **alternative route** to the one-way system for some journeys and **reduces the impacts of the vehicles queuing** to turn right from the High Street into Ashley Road, which regularly “blocks” the A24 northbound traffic. Making South Street two way **reduces the stop-start conditions** in the High Street, **smoothes traffic flows** and **provides journey time savings**.

HIGH STREET & SPREAD EAGLE JUNCTION



The scheme will also include the following highway improvements to the town centre:

D High Street

- Relocate TK Maxx crossing closer to Clock tower
- Relocate taxi rank from NatWest West of Clock tower with 2 additional spaces

E Spread Eagle Junction

- Modify junction
- Widen pedestrian footways
- Shorten pedestrian crossing distances
- Signalise right-turn into Ashley Road
- Remove Ashley Centre pedestrian crossing

Benefits

Making South Street two-way reduces the number of vehicles queuing to turn right from the High Street, which allows other improvements to be made at the Spread Eagle junction and the High Street. This includes making it **easier and safer to cross at the Spread Eagle** by signalling the right turn for traffic and **widening footways** to shorten the crossing distances. The removal of the Ashley Centre crossing will make the junction easier and safer for both traffic and pedestrians.

The pedestrian crossing in the High Street will be relocated to align with the path to the station and will include additional **way-finding signs** to promote the town's key locations. Moving the crossing closer to the Clock tower provides **a continuous bus stand and bus stop area** which will **remove the need for buses to manoeuvre twice** in and out of the running traffic lane, which can impact on traffic and cause congestion. The three existing bus shelters will be consolidated into **one large bus shelter**. This will help **reduce street furniture** which can hinder a pedestrian's path.

Other Proposals

The scheme will also include the following:

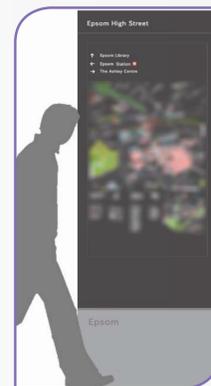
Benefits to motorists

i Improve **network management** by:

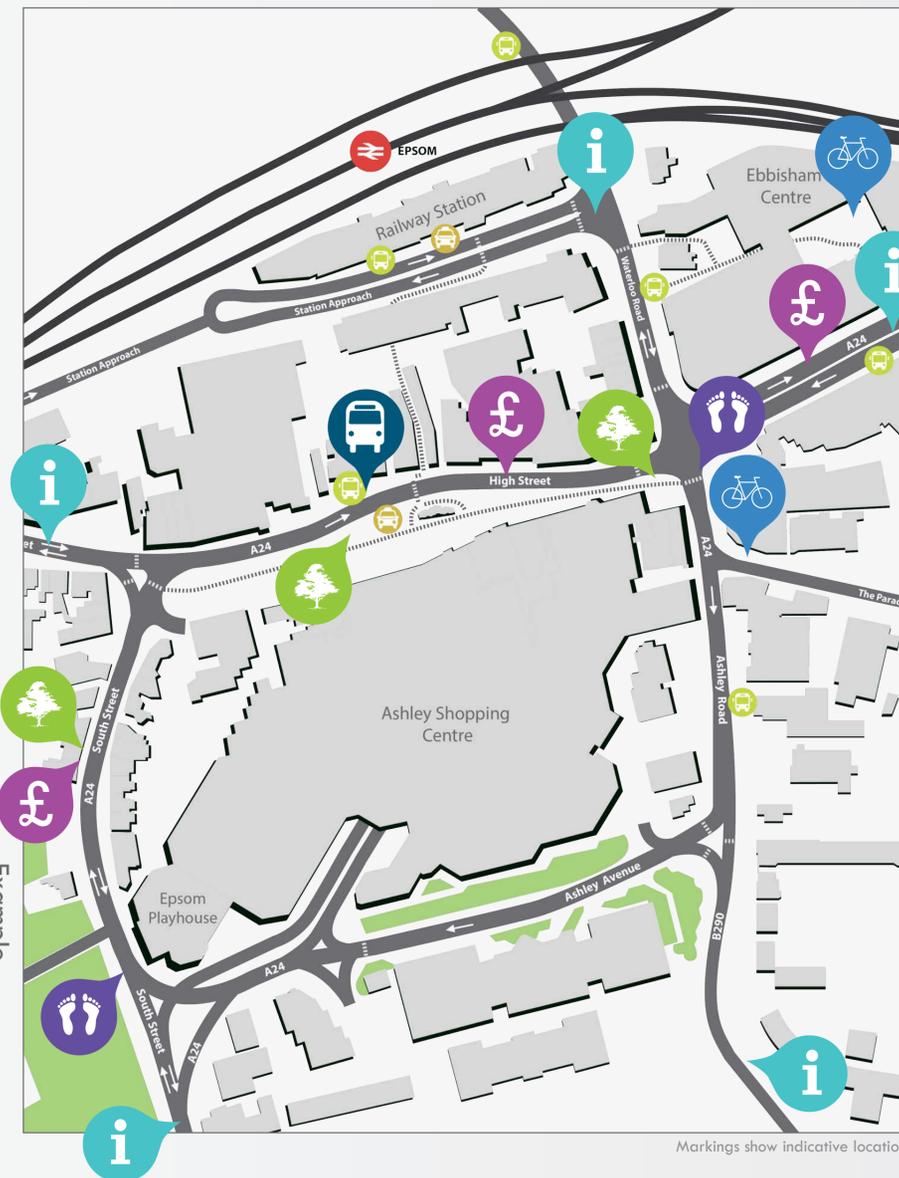
- reviewing the traffic light system to improve traffic signal coordination,
- enhancing existing Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), to improve personal safety, reduce crime and help response to congestion in the event of any accidents or incidents.
- upgrading Car Park Guidance Information (CPGI) systems to provide better information to drivers, to reduce cross town movement.

Benefits to pedestrians, cyclists and bus users

Footprints icon Improve **pedestrian facilities** by having better signing, wayfinding and widened footways especially at Spread Eagle junction to make walking easier and safer.



Bicycle icon Provide **cycle parking facilities** at key destinations, including Derby Square and the Parade.



Support **sustainable transport** by:

- improving bus facilities to make it easier for them to wait, reach stops and manoeuvre into traffic,
- upgrading Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) systems to provide better information to bus passengers.
- combining bus shelters and stops to remove some unnecessary street furniture.



Make Epsom a nicer place to visit by improving the **street scene** rationalising signage and other street furniture to provide uncluttered routes for pedestrians.



The Epsom Plan E Highway Improvements scheme aims to promote **economic growth** by making it easier for shoppers and workers to get to the town centre; provide an attractive business environment; and support the creation of new jobs.

Highway Benefits to Town Centre



PROCESS

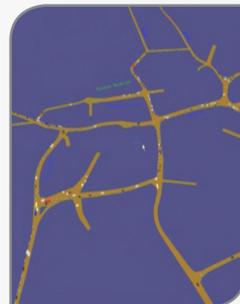
Extensive traffic surveys were undertaken to develop a computer based traffic model to assess the impacts of the proposed changes on vehicle movements and journey times to:



- help highway and junction design and
- predict changes in traffic flows

JOURNEY TIMES

Journey time changes between the current layout and the proposed scheme were compared for the following key cross-town routes.



The table below illustrates the predicted journey time savings. The analysis suggests that on average most cross-town **journeys currently take** around **10 minutes**, the modelling predicts that with the proposed scheme these journey times will be **reduced** by **1-2 minutes**.



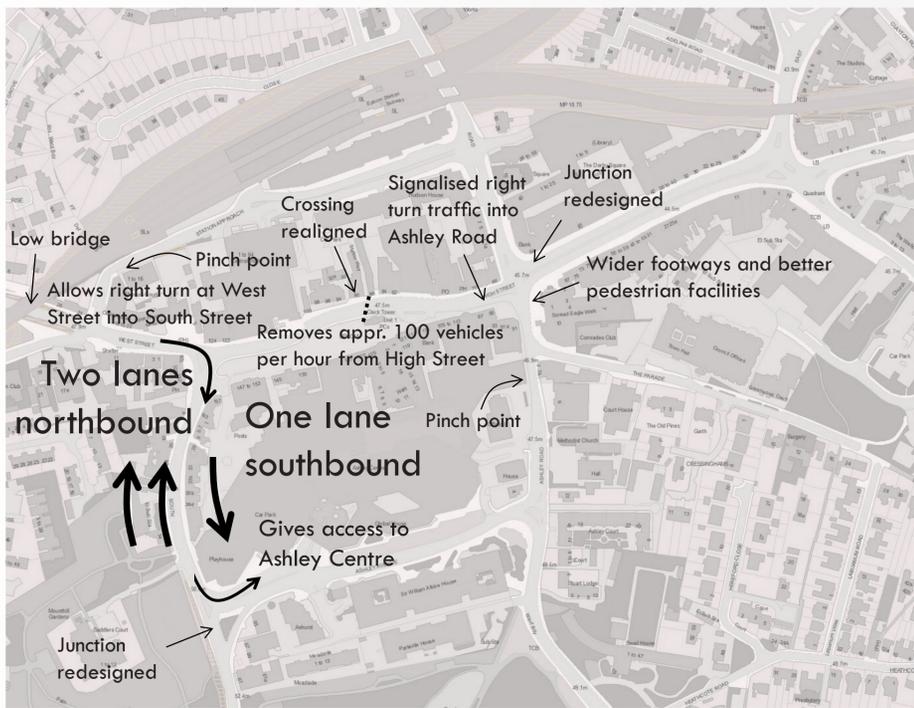
Ref.	Modelled average journey times (secs)								
	Weekday 8am - 9am			Weekday 5pm - 6pm			Noon - 1pm		
	No Scheme	With Scheme	Time Savings	No Scheme	With Scheme	Time Savings	No Scheme	With Scheme	Time Savings
A-F	570	485	84	477	442	34	507	507	0
F-A	546	503	43	575	413	162	523	345	179
E-F	325	262	63	304	245	59	216	186	29
F-E	581	475	106	510	350	161	485	251	234
A-E	583	487	96	462	429	33	498	494	4
E-A	553	490	63	586	473	113	492	436	56
I-J	209	172	37	193	169	24	199	158	41
H-E	532	356	177	472	398	74	404	350	54

WHAT WILL THE SCHEME DO?

The scheme aims to promote **economic growth** by making it easier for shoppers to get to the town centre, provide an **attractive business environment** and support the **creation of jobs**.

The scheme will include the following changes to the town centre:

- ✓ Reduce congestion
- ✓ Reduce journey times through town centre
- ✓ Create a more attractive environment
- ✓ Support public realm improvements, especially in the Marketplace
- ✓ Review parking and loading restrictions on South Street
- ✓ Improve traffic signals
- ✓ Improve pedestrian signage for visitors and local people
- ✓ Clearly display car park information
- ✓ Open up scope for improving High Street East and the Quadrant



(Map obtained from Ordnance Survey, Surrey County Council, License No. License Number LA076872, 2015)

The **Epsom Plan E Highway Improvements** scheme will help transform Epsom's town centre as set out in the Borough Council's adopted Area Action Plan, Plan E and will make best use of the funding available.

It will deliver more reliable journey times, and allow us to make improvements to the look and feel of the town.



Artist's impressions of what the planned two-way road layout and Spread Eagle Junction could look like in Epsom town centre including examples of materials.



The Next Steps



RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

The Plan E highway improvement measures will help support development opportunities such as the Upper High Street, Depot Road and Church Street as stated in the Borough Council's **Development Brief** which seek improvement to:

- Pedestrian facilities to increase movement between the Upper High Street and the Market Place
- Safety and connectivity at the High St. and Upper High St. junction
- The operation of the High St and Upper High St. signal junction

There is a need to improve the look and feel of public areas within the town centre perceived by some as 'tired', outdated and unfriendly for pedestrians. Improvements would seek to update the materials used in public areas to create a safer and more attractive public environment, perhaps using public art to enhance the area's identity.

The junction with High Street and Upper High Street needs to be redesigned to improve crossing facilities and reduce pedestrian wait times, providing better east-west pedestrian links and opening up this end of town.

Derby Square and Oaks Square need a refresh of materials to encourage greater public interaction and use of these spaces.

Delivering the highway layout changes put forward as part of the Epsom Plan E scheme will help facilitate these potential improvements to the street scene in Epsom, helping to reinvigorate and enliven the town centre.

SCHEME COSTS

£ The majority of the **£3.3 million** scheme cost will come from the Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Growth Fund. An application for funding was submitted in December last year, with final approval expected at the end of March 2015.

WHEN IS WORK PLANNED?

 The highway works could start in **January 2016** and will last approximately 6 months. A Construction Management Plan will be in place to minimise disruption to travel and access to Epsom.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

 We need your views to help us develop the detailed aspects of the scheme. Please complete the **questionnaire** by **30th April 2015** to let us know your views, either here at the exhibition or online:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/epsomhighwayimprovements

Staff are on hand at the exhibition to answer any questions to help you complete the questionnaire.

All information presented on the panels can be found on our website, which also has a link to the questionnaire should you wish to complete it online.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE EXHIBITION

www.surreycc.gov.uk/epsomhighwayimprovements