

**Newsletter: M5 Junction 9 and A46 (Ashchurch) Transport
Scheme Community Update**

**Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group Aim is "To prevent any
expansion or realignment of the A46 which would have a
detrimental effect on our villages and residents."**

Introduction

Recent reports in Gloucestershire Live, BBC News, and statements from Cheltenham Borough Council (CBC) and Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) have highlighted growing calls for Prime Minister Andy Burnham to make a decision on the M5 Junction 9A and A46 Transport Scheme.

As you may be aware, TAAG was expecting the Department for Transport (DfT) to announce whether it would continue funding the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the M5 Junction 9A and A46 Transport Scheme in early summer. However, following the change in Prime Minister, this decision is now not expected until September.

Background

Gloucestershire County Council submitted the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) for the M5 J9 Transport Scheme to the DfT in 2022. Approximately £17 million has been spent to date (£15 million under the previous Conservative administration, £2 million by the current administration). Cllr Julian Tooke has slowed expenditure

pending the government decision. No viable alternative to DfT funding exists for the £740 million to £930 million required.

Key Points from Cabinet, 22 July 2026

- **Government Approval Risks:** Decision delayed due to change in government; formal announcement expected September 2026.
- **Jobs and Economic Benefits:** Scheme supports Tewkesbury Garden Communities proposal (100+ hectares employment land) and jobs during construction.
- **Housing Numbers:** Could enable up to 25,000 homes including initial phase of 10,195 homes.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Reduced HGV traffic on A46 through Ashchurch: carbon emissions impact described as negligible on UK Carbon Budgets.
- **Sunk Costs:** The £17 million spent is at risk and will not be recoverable if scheme does not proceed.
- **Cabinet Decisions:** Delegated authority to award contract to AtkinsRealis (1 August 2026 to 31 March 2027), with spend capped at £534,000 from the existing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions. Further Cabinet report due October 2026 before additional funding released.

What Happens Next

- Work continues until 31 October 2026 with capped expenditure of £534,000
- DfT announcement anticipated September 2026
- Cabinet report due October 2026 to assess government commitment
- Final decision depends on DfT funding confirmation
- If rejected, £17 million sunk costs are lost and linked developments face uncertainty

How to Get Involved

- Monitor local press and GCC website for DfT announcements
- Contact county and borough councillors ahead of October Cabinet review

- Engage with TAAG via taagroup.co.uk and subscribe to our newsletter
- For our detailed analysis of the route options, see the Reports page on our website [Reports](#)
- Submit views to Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic Local Plan consultation
- Track developments through Large Local Majors/Major Road Network programme on the [GOV.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).
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*Sources: Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Questions, 9–18 July 2026; Cabinet Resolutions, July 2026; 1. **"Plea for Prime Minister to back new M5 junction or 'stop keeping us hanging'"** Gloucestershire County Council's infrastructure chief Cllr Julian Tooke directly appeals to PM Andy Burnham, saying: "So Andy Burnham, please listen, please do... Please stop keeping us hanging on. It's not fair." He argues the scheme is about quality of life, unlocking housing land, and strengthening a nationally important route linking the Midlands with the South West. [🔗 Gloucestershire Live](#)*

*2. **"New Gloucestershire M5 junction to solve 'gridlock' could be in peril"** Reports fears that the scheme could be "left to rot" after the Government slashed £700m from its roads fund to boost defence spending. Reform UK councillor Vernon Smith calls it a "betrayal" of Tewkesbury and the whole county if funding is not delivered, while Cllr Tooke describes the costs as "entirely batty" and expresses concern the scheme may get sacrificed. [🔗 Gloucestershire Live](#)*

*3. **"New M5 Gloucestershire junction would 'unlock county's future'"** Tewkesbury Borough Council leader Richard Stanley makes the economic case, arguing that for every £1 invested the scheme unlocks at least £7 of growth, generating £7bn in total. He stresses the importance of continuing to make the case to the new PM and Government. [🔗 Gloucestershire Live](#)*

*4. **"Decision on Gloucestershire's new £930m M5 junction delayed"** Reports that the decision on whether to spend up to £930 million on the new junction has been delayed, with the county council's cabinet due to consider further funding. [🔗 Punchline Gloucester](#)*

5. "Council fears motorway plans could be sacrificed for defence"

Reports councillors' fears that the scheme could be shelved if defence-related priorities take precedence under the Government's £700m roads fund cut. [🔗 Punchline Gloucester](#)

6. "Urgent plea to PM for motorway junction funding". [BBC](#)

[Gloucestershire](#)

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