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NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2010

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The purpose of the Route Selection Phase is to determine the preferred route, and ultimately the publication of the route selection report.

The following sections summarises the first stage of the route selection process and the findings from this. A brief description of the scheme programme is also provided subject to funding.

**Route Selection Stage 1**

The purpose of the Stage 1 assessment is to refine the number of route options which will be carried forward to the next stage of the route selection process i.e. Stage 2 Route Selection. An assessment of the existing N25 or do-nothing option is also undertaking during Stage 1.

At Stage 1 a Preliminary Assessment of the 9 route options is carried out under the following broad headings:

- Economy
- Environment
- Engineering

The Economic Assessment at Stage 1 is simply the cost estimates of each route option.

The Environmental Assessment includes an examination of the following aspects within the Scheme Study Area.

- Human Beings
- Agriculture
- Ecology
- Geology & Hydrogeology
- Landscape & Visual
- Noise
- Air Quality & Climate
- Material Assets

The Engineering Assessment is wide ranging but includes some of the following items.

- Technical Standards (Design)
- Earthworks
- Junctions & Local Roads
- Structures
- Construction
- Land & property

Generally speaking the Route Options which clearly do not perform well in terms of Economy, Environment & Engineering will not be carried forward to the next stage of the Route Selection process.

**Results of Stage 1 Route Selection**

The table on the next page indicates the status of the 9 route options following the Preliminary Assessment.

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Further details on the scheme Programme will be issued at a later stage.

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