

9 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The preliminary assessment completed as part of this study has taken the form of four distinct assessments:

- Engineering Assessment
- Traffic and Economic Assessment
- Environmental Assessment
- Comparative Assessment

All assessments have been carried out independently, but all indications are that a south corridor should be taken forward to the Preferred Route Option Stage. This corridor is largely offline and would allow the existing A6 to act as a local road to provide local access to those properties currently accessing directly on to the A6. The south corridor also performs best environmentally. A south corridor offers the best opportunity for an alignment which flows well into the adjacent M22 and Toome Bypass. A south corridor would also be suitable should upgrading to motorway standard be considered in the future.

This is not to suggest that a south corridor route would be without problems. The south corridor would incur earthworks cost as it crosses some topography south of Moneynick.

It is recommended that a south corridor is taken forward to Stage 2 (which includes route options 6, 7 and 8) where more detailed investigations as to their merit can be carried out.