

## Executive Summary

A review of the Stage 1 Assessment for the A8 Belfast to Larne Dual Carriageway (Coleman's Corner to Ballyrickard Road) has been undertaken. The review considered whether the Stage 1 Assessment had appropriately considered the benefits and disbenefits of an online scheme. It considered the impact of additional, more detailed, information collected and obtained during the Stage 2 Assessment on the Stage 1 recommendations, particularly in relation to the decision to reject the option of online dualling through the village of Ballynure. The review also provided a summary of the impact on Ballynure of an online widening scheme.

The review considered a comprehensive range of options for online dualling through Ballynure to establish whether a better performing option might exist to the one assessed, and rejected, at Stage 1. These options were assessed against additional information now available from more detailed surveys, ground investigations and further public consultation. The economic impact and access arrangements for an online and the various bypass options were also reviewed to identify whether any option would perform significantly better in terms of impact on the village.

The assessment concluded that none of the alternative online dualling options through Ballynure performed as well as the original option assessed at Stage 1 (at-grade solution with a signalised junction and 40mph speed restriction). This therefore validates the original Stage 1 Assessment in the regard that the correct design was considered in the study. Further, the re-assessment of the online dualling option through Ballynure against the additional information now available did not change the outcome of the assessment process, and confirmed the online dualling through Ballynure was correctly rejected at Stage 1. Finally, the review of the economic impact and access arrangements indicated a greater impact on access to Ballynure and local businesses with an online option.

This review of the Stage 1 Assessment has therefore confirmed the original recommendations that an online dualling solution through Ballynure would not perform as well as the bypass options. Based upon the outcome of this review of the Stage 1 study, Roads Service is satisfied the Preferred Route for the A8 Dualling announced by the Minister for Regional Development in August 2009 is the correct route and continues to progress the scheme.