The Highways Agency published draft Orders for the A5-M1 Link (Dunstable Northern Bypass) on 9 December 2009 and Public Exhibitions were held on the 17 December 2009, the 7 and 9 January 2010. These gave members of the public and affected parties the opportunity to consider and comment on the proposals.

A Public Inquiry into the proposals will be held before an independent Inspector, commencing on 29 June 2010 at 10.00am. It will be held at the Superdrug Stores Plc Distribution Centre, Unit 1, Prologis Park, Arenson Way, Dunstable, LU5 4RZ.

Ten alternative routes have been put forward by Objectors to the Published Scheme. The alternative routes are presented below and on the following page to allow comments to be made by other stakeholders and interested parties. Any comments in support or against an alternative route will be presented to the Inspector for his consideration at the Public Inquiry.

Objector’s Alternative Route No. 1
Provision of a tunnel beneath Dunstable of total length 4.9 km and 0.9 km of approach roads. The starting point would be the A505/A5 roundabout to the north of Dunstable and it would end at a new junction located on the A5 at the Caddington Turn.

Objector’s Alternative Route No. 2
Provision of a bypass to the east of the existing A5 through Dunstable, starting and finishing at the same points as Alternative Route No. 1. It would be 7.2 km in length. The route would pass east of Chalk Hill, would use Arenson Way and Boscombe Road before crossing the A505 and the disused railway line to reach the new roundabout at Caddington Turn.

Objector’s Alternative Route No. 3
Provision of an eastern bypass of Hockliffe, starting on the A5 approximately 1.8km northwest of the village, passing to the west and south of Tebworth and Wingfield, to connect to the Published Scheme at the proposed A5120 roundabout. The Alternative Route would then be the same as the Published Scheme for the route to Junction 11A and the side roads in that area. Under this alternative, the section of the Published Scheme from the A5 at Thorn Road to the A5120 roundabout would not be required.