

WARDS: Brierley Hill, Brockmoor and Pensnett, Kingswinford North and Wall Heath
Kingswinford South, Wordsley

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 5th APRIL 2005

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

HIGHWAYS MINOR WORKS CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2005/2006

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek Committee's support for the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to School within the Brierley Hill Area for the 2005/2006 financial year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 9th February 2005, the Cabinet approved the Transport Capital Settlement and Proposed Minor Works Capital Programme for 2005/2006. The meeting of the Full Council on the 28th. February 2005 subsequently ratified the proposed Capital Programme for 2005/2006.
- 2.2 Appendices A, B and C attached to this report reflect proposals within the Highways Minor Works Capital Programme for this Committee's area in relation to Local Safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to School respectively.
- 2.3 In terms of public consultation, schemes included within the Council's Minor Works Capital Programme are generally divided into two categories, namely:

i) SCHEMES SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Those schemes incorporating physical measures or Traffic Regulation Orders which will have a greater impact on local residents and/or property owners, such as traffic calming measures and Traffic Regulation Orders which may supplement schemes, are subject to Statutory advertisement and objection periods. Pedestrian Crossings are also subject to the publication of Statutory Notices of intention to install such facilities.

However, in addition to any necessary Statutory Notices being advertised, the consultation process for schemes falling into this category will also provide for feedback from the local residents/frontagers who would be most directly affected by the proposals, the emergency services, bus operators and Local Ward Members.

ii) SCHEMES NOT SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Those schemes which do not include physical measures or Traffic Regulation Orders but may consist of, for example, a combination of road signs and markings, anti-skid/coloured surfacing or stand-alone speed camera initiatives.

Whereas schemes falling into this category would not involve a consultation exercise, it would still be normal practice to advise Local Ward Members prior to the commencement of any works on site.

- 2.4 The principle of only carrying out public consultation on schemes incorporating physical measures and/or Traffic Regulation Orders was initially agreed by the Lead and 'Shadow' Lead Members for Transportation at a meeting held on the 20 March 2001, and it has subsequently been found to have provided an acceptable template for taking schemes forward.

Meetings of the Lead and 'Shadow' Lead Members for Transportation and, most recently, the meeting of the Cabinet and 'Shadow' Cabinet Members for Transportation at their meeting on the 19 January 2005 have endorsed a continuation of this approach.

- 2.5 The proposals outlined in the Appendices attached to this report may be subject to minor variations, amendments or modifications arising as a result of the consultation/design process, for example, the location of speed humps.

Any variations or modifications resulting in a material or significant departure from the original scheme concept would be subject to the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment.

2.6 Sustainable Transport

The contents of this report support the Council's Transport Policy by considering measures which could contribute to improved highway and pedestrian safety to the benefit of the local community.

3.0 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 That the Area Committee support the proposed Local Safety Schemes, Pedestrian Crossings and Safer Routes to Schools initiatives outlined in Appendices A, B and C respectively and shown on the appropriate plans.

4.0 FINANCE

The implementation of proposals outlined within this report can be funded under the respective budget heads of the approved 2005/2006 Highways Minor Works Capital Programme.

5.0 **LAW**

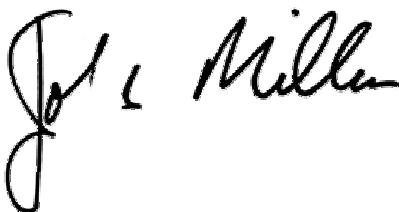
- 5.1 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- 5.2 Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
- 5.3 The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 5.4 Guardrails may be provided under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1990.
- 5.5 Pedestrian crossing facilities are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to Regulations made by the Secretary of State.
- 5.6 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.
- 5.7 The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
- 5.8 The Highways Act 1980, as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 requires the installation of road humps to be advertised on-street and in the local newspaper for objections.

6.0 **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

7.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

That the proposals set out in Section 3.0 of this report be approved.



J. B. MILLAR – DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Contact Officer: Graham Isherwood, Ext.5459
 Ian Withey, Ext.4414
 Peter Van Geersdaele, Ext.5437

Background documents used in the preparation of this report:-

1. The Cabinet Meeting on 9 February 2005 relating to the joint report of the Director of the Urban Environment and the Chief Finance Officer on the Transport Capital Settlement and Proposed Capital Programme.
2. The Council Meeting on 28th February 2005.

LOCAL SAFETY SCHEMES

1. Pensnett Road, Brierley Hill - Centre line hatching, right turn lanes, junction highlighting and anti-skid surfacing to zebra
2. Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill - Centre line hatching, right turn provision, highlighting and possible refuges
3. Mill Street/The Promenade, Brierley Hill - Zebra upgrade and anti-skid to junction approach and yellow box
4. Bromley Lane, Kingswinford - Improved signs, markings and anti-skid surfacing
5. Moor Street, Brierley Hill - Mobile speed cameras and improved signs and markings
6. The Boulevard, Merry Hill - Formalise right turn lane outside KFC with centre line hatching and possible refuge

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

1. Lawnswood Road, Wordsley - Pelican Crossing
Near Barnett Lane
(Attached Drawing No. TM2306 refers)

NOTE; All pedestrian crossing schemes are subject to a statutory consultation process.

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Council has currently identified a list of 14 schools across the Borough from which its Safer Routes to School Schemes will subsequently emerge.

Clearly, not all of the proposals can be implemented within the timescale and funding available but within the area covered by this Area Committee, the following locations will at least form a basis for further consultation and consideration.

1. Ashwood Park Primary, Wordsley - Improvements to footway/cycle routes and possible new gate entrance
2. St. Mary's RC, Brierley Hill - Improved crossing facilities for School Crossing Patrol and investigate alternative entrance off The Boulevard
3. Summerhill School, Kingswinford - Footway improvements. New speed limit along Lodge Lane including new and improved lighting. Investigate improved pedestrian/cycle facilities and 'Stop and Go' Zone