

Central Dudley Area Committee – 11th March 2008

Report of the Director of Urban Environment

Junction of Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, Netherton

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Area Committee of ongoing investigations regarding the junction of Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, Netherton.

Background

2. At its meeting of the 22nd January 2008 the Area Committee requested that a report be submitted regarding the junction of Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, Netherton.
3. The existing junction layout shown on plan T/1400/6 shows Northfield Rd at an oblique angle to the Halesowen Rd and suffers from reduced visibility to the left. The local topography also exacerbates this poor alignment with the junction being situated on a slight hill with bends in Halesowen Rd on either side of Northfield Road.
4. The 12 hour count data (7:00am to 7:00pm) for the junction indicates that the two way flow on Halesowen Road is roughly balanced at 16000 vehicles and the demand from Northfield Rd 4750 vehicles with 1/3 rd turning out and 2/3rds turning into Northfield road. The right turn from Halesowen Road into Northfield Road from the south is relatively light reflecting the poor junction alignment and the availability of better alternatives to perform this manoeuvre elsewhere.
5. An investigation of the three year accident record in the immediate vicinity of the junction indicates that there have been 8 injury accidents recorded by the Police, which resulted in 13 slight and 1 serious casualty. Of these accidents 4 involved pedestrians and 4 occurred as a result of turning conflicts between vehicles at the junction.
6. Previously a highway improvement had been proposed at this location however, this was not progressed and subsequently removed from the programme. Concerns regarding the previous proposal related to operational efficiencies and impact on access to both Netherton Park and the Arts Centre.
7. Officers have been investigating early options for the re-modelling of the junction again, including the possible introduction of traffic signals. Traffic signals at this location would certainly help address the accident situation, although further design and technical work is required to assess the operational impact on the

surrounding highway network. Previous concerns regarding access to the park and Arts Centre also need to be examined further. It is the intention, should the committee agree, to bring details of a preferred scheme for the junction to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Finance

8. Funding to cover the investigation and development of a minor improvement scheme at this location can be met from the existing Integrated Transport Block of the Local Transport Plan.

Law

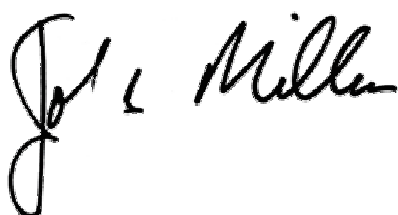
9. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
10. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1992 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.
11. Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980 empowers the Council as Highway Authority to improve the highway.

Equality Impact

12. The proposals contained within this report comply with the Councils Equality and Diversity Policy whilst also seeking to introduce measures that will be of direct benefit vulnerable road users in the community.

Recommendation

13. That the Cabinet Member for Transportation be informed that the Area Committee supports the need for further investigation and development of a minor improvement at the junction of Halesowen Road and Northfield Road, Netherton.



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Director of The Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

Minutes of Central Dudley Area Committee, 22nd January 2008.