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**Central Dudley Area Committee - 15<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Report of the Director of the Urban Environment**

**Blackacre Road Area, Dudley - Proposed Traffic Regulations**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To seek the Area Committee's support for the introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders to support an existing "no driving except for access to properties" Order. Plans showing original and amended proposals are attached.

**Background**

2. Blackacre Road is approximately 6.5 metres wide and runs between the Dudley Southern Bypass at the Flood Street roundabout, and Dixons Green Road. A short one-way section between Dixons Green Road and Park Hill Street prevents traffic from the town centre going directly onto Dixons Green Road. The bulk of Blackacre Road traffic uses Bean Road to access Dixons Green Road. Bean Road is one-way from Blackacre Road to Dixons Green Road.
3. A "prohibition of driving" Traffic Regulation Order was introduced in Blackacre Road and the surrounding streets in 2002, in order to dissuade intensive numbers of non-residential drivers from using the area.
4. Before the "prohibition of driving" Order was introduced, around 1000 vehicles used Blackacre Road during each peak hour. Over a 12 hour day, some 10,000 vehicles used Blackacre Road.
5. Following the introduction of the "prohibition of driving", these figures were halved by means of regular police enforcement. These campaigns continue, but are of reducing effectiveness and require intensive police activity.
6. Today, the amount of through traffic using Blackacre Road has crept up towards the original numbers. The most recent traffic surveys indicate that around 6,000 vehicles use Blackacre Road, with around 500 vehicles in a weekday peak hour.
7. In a recent 3 year period, 6 slight road accidents occurred in Blackacre Road, with 10 casualties.
8. During speed surveys taken during the day on 1 April 2010, the highest speed recorded in Blackacre Road was 35mph. The average speed in a north-west direction was 25mph (with the 85<sup>th</sup>ile speed being 28 mph). The average speed in a south-east direction was 27mph (with the 85<sup>th</sup>ile being 30mph).

9. In 2010, following a series of meetings with Ward Members and representatives of the Police and the community, and business leaders, proposals were drafted to sever sections of Blackacre Road and Shedden Street, and to make Paradise one way.
10. Letters describing the proposals were sent to Ward Members on 11 June 2010. A similar letter had been sent to the Police on 27 May 2010.
11. The Fire Service was consulted by letter on 14 January 2010 and 4 May 2010.
12. The proposals were advertised in the 'Express and Star' newspaper on 1 October 2010 and on street between 1 October and 26 October 2010.
13. The chart below describes the full range of proposals that is available to be considered by your Area Committee.

Name/ Number	Original Proposal or Smaller amendment	Details	Would prevent through traffic?
First Proposal TRS/TM/551	Original proposal	1. Sever Blackacre Road between Shedden Street and Dando Road 2. Sever Shedden Street 3. Make Paradise one way towards Douglas Road / Rollason Road	Yes.
Second Proposal TRS/TM/551A	Smaller amendment	1. Make Blackacre Road one way towards Bean Road from the Shedden Street end 2. Make a section of Shedden Street one way towards Lloyd Street 3. Create no entry into Paradise from Rollason Road / Douglas Road	No. Half of through traffic
Third Proposal TRS/TM/551B	Smaller amendment	1. Make Blackacre Road one way towards Dando Road from the Shedden Street end 2. Make a section of Shedden Street one way towards Lloyd Street. 3. Create no entry into Paradise from Rollason Road / Douglas Road.	No. Half of through traffic
Fourth Proposal TRS/TM/551C	Smaller amendment	1. Make a section of Blackacre Road one way, from Dando Road towards Shedden Street. 2. Make a section of Shedden Street one way, from Lloyd Street towards Blackacre Road.	No. Half of through traffic
Fifth Proposal	Original proposal (minus Park Hill Street one way)	Make Norman Street and Selbourne Road one way towards Smith Street.	Yes, the majority of through traffic would be dissuaded.

14. A petition was received containing over 80 signatures objecting to the original proposal (the First Proposal). It is understood that the main petitioner or his representative may be permitted the opportunity to address your Area Committee tonight.
15. Ten other objections to the proposals were received. The points made by the objectors and the Council's responses are shown in Appendix A to this report.
16. The one way street proposal for Park Hill Street has been withdrawn.
17. The one way street proposal for Norman Street is supported by residents and was not objected to. This proposal will be pursued.

### **Finance**

18. The costs associated with new traffic management measures in the Blackacre Road area of Dudley are estimated to be around £12,000. It is intended that this expenditure might be met from the 2011-12 Minor Works Capital Allocation.

### **Law**

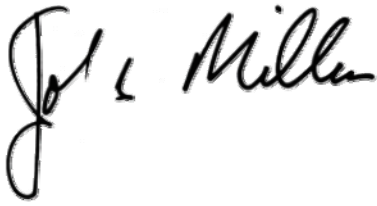
19. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
20. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions.
21. The Council is under a duty to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1984.

### **Equality Impact**

22. The proposals and information contained within this report comply with the Council's Equal Opportunities and Diversity Policy.
23. Preventing through traffic from using a residential area can assist children and young people, pedestrians and mobility impaired persons to travel and have an acceptable quality of life.

### **Recommendation**

24. That Members provide their views regarding the proposals that they consider necessary to meet community needs, and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Transportation for approval.



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**John Millar**  
**Director of the Urban Environment**

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### **List of Background Papers**

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A, Summary of Petitions, Objections and Support.

Plans showing original proposals and amended proposals.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **BLACKACRE ROAD, DUDLEY**

#### **PETITIONS, OBJECTIONS AND SUPPORT**

<b>Objectors/ Supporters</b>	<b>Points Made by Objectors / Supporters</b>	<b>Council Responses</b>
Petitioners objecting (letter & petition)	1. Problems nothing to do with Blackacre Road. 2. Problems associated with Hall Street/King Street/Trindle Road. 3. Proposals will affect Rollason Road/ Douglas Road/Paradise/ Prospect Row.	Funds are not available for suggested improvements. A number of amended proposals can be considered.
Supporter. (email) Norman Street	Supports Norman Street and Park Hill Street proposal. Would improve quality of life.	Norman Street proposal will be pursued. Park Hill Street proposal withdrawn.
Objector. (2 letters & email) Summerfield Road	If Blackacre Road is closed, quiet nearby streets would be affected by through traffic.	A range of proposals short of a full road closure can be considered.
Objector. (letter) Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill	Whole problem is due to the presence of the Dudley Southern Bypass. The amount of traffic using Blackacre Road is due to other restrictions.	A range of proposals short of a full road closure can be considered.
Objector. (letter) Dibdale Road	Closing Blackacre Road to through traffic would cause problems for other routes.	Blackacre Road already has a "no driving except for access" Order imposed.
Objector. (letter) Chillington Drive	Mother lives in Park Hill Street.	Park Hill Street proposal is withdrawn.
Objector. (anonymous letter)	Blackacre Road is needed as a through route.	Blackacre Road already has a "no driving except for access" Order imposed.
Objector. (letter) Dando Road	Paradise should not be made one way. Dando Road should remain unaffected.	There are now lighter proposals for Paradise and Blackacre Road near to Dando Road.
Objector. (letter) Barncroft Road, Tividale	Objects to all proposals. Passage to travel should be free from obstruction.	Blackacre Road already has a "no driving except for access" Order imposed.
Objector. (letter) Adshead Road, Dudley	Paradise should be closed. Buildings in Dudley Town Centre should be relocated, with new roads and Metro tracks constructed.	There are proposals for Paradise. Funds are not currently available for new roads and public buildings.
Objector. (telephone call) Cromwell Drive, Dudley	Objector unable to write. Objection to all proposals for the Blackacre Road area.	Original proposals have been amended. There are now a range of proposals.
Objector. (email) New Rowley Road, Dudley	Objector lives on New Rowley Road, with Doctor on Bean Road.	Third and fourth proposals for Blackacre Road would most assist this objector.