

---

**HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2009**

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

**Earls Way Island Improvements, Halesowen**

**Purpose of Report**

- 1 To seek the support of the Committee to the proposed improvements to Earls Way Island.

**Background**

- 2 Funding has been secured from the Department for Transport to upgrade the structural elements of Earls Way Island and in taking this forward a proposal to abandon the subways and infill the island has been considered. This seeks to reduce ongoing maintenance costs and also address the antisocial behaviour that has resulted in reduction in general usage; as members of the general public seek to avoid using this thoroughfare as a pedestrian route to and from the town centre.
- 3 Students at the Earls High School and Halesowen College also opt not to use the subway route preferring instead to cross Earls Way and New Road near to the circulatory carriageway of the island which is not good practice particularly during peak periods.
- 4 Accordingly a scheme to infill the Earls Way Island has been prepared and includes:-
  - Infilling of the subways and associated steps and ramps.
  - Provision of new pedestrian/cyclist crossing facilities at Earls Way and New Road.
  - Improvement to the existing crossing in Stourbridge Road.
  - Revision to the lane markings on the roundabout to improve traffic and pedestrian safety.
- 5 Adjacent businesses, directly affected by the proposed new crossings, have been consulted and they are very much in favour of the scheme.
- 6 A public consultation is being carried out in Halesowen Library with a display showing the scheme. The consultation will close on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009. A verbal update will be given at the meeting of comments received to date with the Cabinet Member being informed of any further comments received following this meeting and the close of the consultation period.

## **Finance**

- 7 As the scheme proposed removes the need to strengthen the parapet and approach walls to the subways the grant provided under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 by the DfT for these works has been redirected to this scheme.

## **Law**

- 8 The Council maintains highway structures at public expenses as the Highway Authority under section 41 of the Highway Act 1980.
- 9 Section 111 of the 1972 Local Government Act allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its various statutory functions.

## **Equality Impact**

- 10 This work has been conducted in accordance with the Council's equality and diversity policies and will have benefits for all members of society. In particular the scheme also seeks to address road safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists.

## **Recommendation**

11. That the Committee supports the Earls Way Island improvement scheme, and recommends the Cabinet Member for Transportation to approve the scheme.



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

Contact Officers: Brian James  
DUE,  
Mary Stevens Park,  
Stourbridge,  
DY8 2AA  
brian.james@dudley.gov.uk

Martyn Holloway  
DUE  
Mary Stevens Park  
Stourbridge  
DY8 2AA  
martyn.holloway@dudley.gov.uk

## **List of Background Papers**

1. Earls Way Island Improvement scheme drawing.