

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Meeting of the Brierley Hill Area Committee - Thursday 1st February 2007

Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Area Committee of current progress on delivery of this Scheme.

Background

2. In their letter dated the 7th December 2006 the Department for Transport indicated that Ministers had agreed full approval to a funding contribution to the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network (BHSAN) in the sum of £20.32m.
3. The total scheme cost amounts to £27.4 m with £7.1m being a public and private sector local contribution.
4. This is excellent news and enables this major investment in the future of Brierley Hill to progress.
5. BHSAN has followed best practice in contract delivery as promoted by the Highways Agency, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the West Midlands Centre of Excellence and the Office of Government Commerce that recognises involvement of the local community. In this regard Brierley Hill Regeneration Partnership has been central to this involvement.
6. The works are to be executed by Carillion JM Ltd under a partnership arrangement and it is anticipated that a start on site will be made in April 2007 with a completion anticipated in August 2008.
7. In order to communicate directly with the local community an internet news group is to be established and people wishing to receive updates direct to their e-mail in box should register their interest with bhsan@dudley.gov.uk

Finance

8. The scheme represents a major capital investment for the Borough. Expenditure and the scheme's funding will be monitored through the Council's Capital Programme.

Law

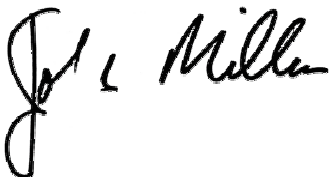
9. Highway improvements are undertaken under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980 and new highways are provided under Section 24 of the same Act.

Equality Impact

10. The proposal contained within this report complies with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.
11. The construction of the BHSAN will enable enhancement in the provision of public transport in the locality, enabling improved access to employment and shopping by the disadvantaged.

Recommendation

12. That the report be noted.



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John B Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

Contact Officer: John Anderson
Telephone: 01384 815459
Email: john.anderson@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers
E-mails and letters to/from DfT.