

Halesowen Area Committee – 25th January, 2006

Report of the Director of The Urban Environment

Halesowen Bus Station – Redevelopment

Purpose of Report

- 1 To seek comments on the Planning Application of Centro to expand and redevelop Halesowen Bus Station.

Background

- 2 The Halesowen Area Committee at its meeting of 16th November 2005, resolved to support highway modifications at Queensway to enable the redevelopment of the Bus Station, as shown on drawing No. HD/1267/8 in Appendix A attached.
- 3 Officers of the Council have worked closely with Centro to bring forward the bus station redevelopment opportunity for which Centro have subsequently submitted a full planning application, the details of which will be displayed at the meeting.
- 4 The proposals for the bus station have been made in response to the Cornbow centre development plans to expand out into the existing bus station, and the need to accommodate an increased number of bus stands, layover and service vehicles.
- 5 The proposed increase in the facilities is to accommodate existing station demands, a point acknowledged in the Dudley UDP which states that, "The bus station, despite recent improvements still remains too small to accommodate all services".
- 6 The proposed bus station will provide eight nearside bus stops, one bus stand and service vehicle parking places. A controlled pedestrian crossing is provided between stops five and six, and ties into the proposed controlled pedestrian crossing facilities to Queensway fronting the Drop in Centre/Andrew Road car park.
- 7 Improved facilities will also be provided for passenger waiting and staff accommodation. A more detailed explanation of the proposals will be given by a representative of Centro at the meeting.

Finance

- 8 Funding to progress the Highway enabling works has been identified in the Integrated Transport block of the Highways Capital Programme for 2006.
- 9 Funding for the Bus Station redevelopment will be found by Centro.

Law

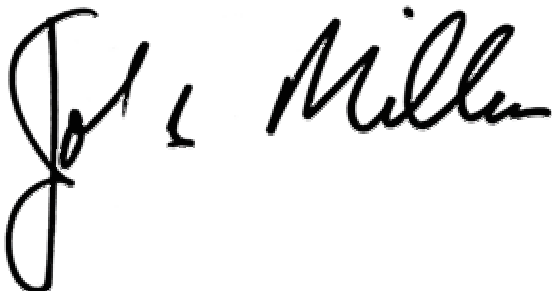
- 10 The Council is empowered to improve Highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
- 11 Traffic Regulation Orders are made under Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
- 12 Pedestrian crossings are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations laid down by The Secretary of State for Transport.
- 13 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.
- 14 Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

- 15 Improved quality of public transport and pedestrian facilities lead to a more inclusive society and is fully in accord with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

Recommendation

- 16 It is recommended that Committee support Centro's proposals as detailed in the Planning Application.

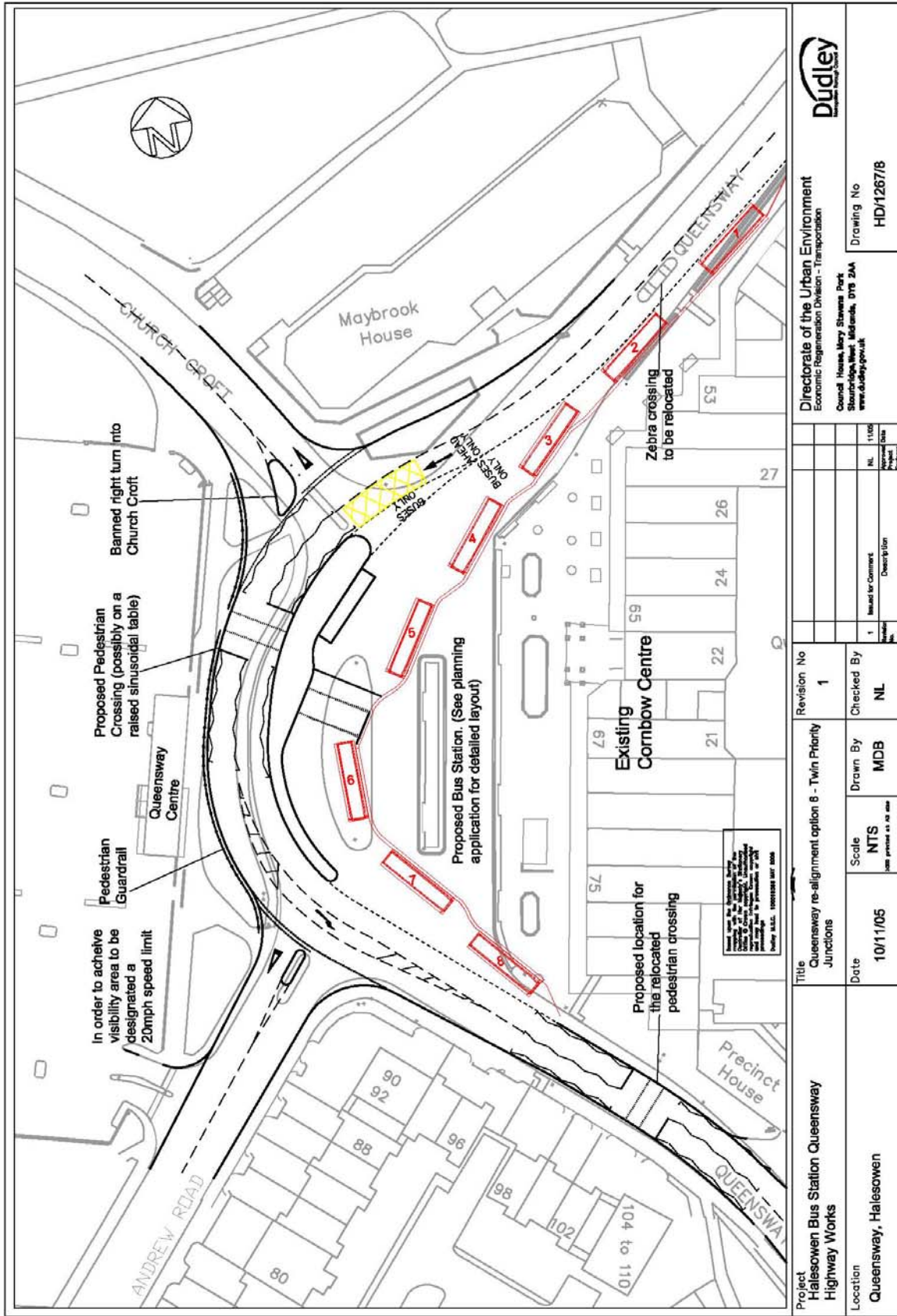


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John B. Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers:-

- i) Transport Capital Settlement and Proposed Highways Capital Programme for 2005/2006 Report to Cabinet dated 9th February, 2005.
- ii) Minutes of Halesowen Area Committee 16th November 2005



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Drawing No
 HD/1267/8

Rev	Revised	By	Date	Reason
1		NL	11/05	Issued for Comment

Revision No
 1

Title
 Queensway re-alignment option 6 - Twin Priority Junctions

Date
 10/11/05

Scale
 NTS
 (see previous as app)

Drawn By
 MDB

Checked By
 NL

Project
 Halesowen Bus Station Queensway
 Highway Works

Location
 Queensway, Halesowen