

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

BRIERLEY HILL AREA COMMITTEE – 2ND OCTOBER, 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

ROUND OAK STEEL MEMORIAL SITE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update Committee on the positioning of the Round Oak Steel Workers Memorial.

BACKGROUND

2. The public art proposed for the site at the junction of the new Parallel Route (Venture Way) and Level Street, Brierley Hill was approved by Cllr Angus Adams, Cabinet Member for Transportation by Decision Sheet reference DUE/49/2008
3. The Level Street site, a flat area that has been made available by the construction of the new road, is on the south-west corner of the junction adjacent to the Asda store and is to be landscaped as part of the highway scheme. It occupies a prominent position at the intersection of major roads making it ideal for an artwork as well as being the only surplus Council owned land of adequate size in the area
4. The site is directly opposite and extremely close to the main concentration of twentieth century steelwork buildings.
5. Additional research has revealed that there was a subsidiary concentration of buildings on the opposite side of Level Street, and that in the Victorian period there were two steel blast furnaces located on the identified site.
6. Plans showing the position of the proposed artwork in relation to the historical steelmaking facilities in the area will be displayed at the meeting.

FINANCE

- 7 All costs associated with the Round Oak sculpture will be met from the Council's Capital Allocation for the Brierley Hill Sustainable Access Network scheme in line with the Council's percentage for art policy.

LAW

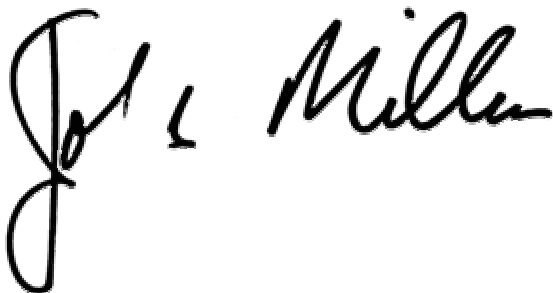
8. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to do anything that is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or is incidental to the exercise of its powers, which in this case relates to general highway improvements under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980. Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits a Council to do anything which improves the social, economic or environmental wellbeing of the Council's area.

EQUALITY IMPACT

- 9 This item of public art represents the industrial heritage of Brierley Hill and in particular the significance of the former Round Oak Steel Works and its associated workforce.

RECOMMENDATION

- 10 The Committee is recommended to note the contents of this report.



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Director of the Urban Environment

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