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**Halesowen Area Committee – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009**

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

**Highways Minor Works Capital Programme for 2009/2010**

**Purpose**

1. To seek Committee's support for the proposed programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings within the Halesowen Area for the 2009/2010 financial year.

**Background**

2. Following discussions between the Cabinet Member and Shadow Members of Transportation, Programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings for 2009/2010 were approved by the Cabinet Member for Transportation on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2009.
3. Appendices A, B and C attached to this report reflect those proposals that fall within this Committee's area
4. In terms of public consultation, schemes included within the Council's Minor Works Capital Programme are generally divided into two categories, namely:

- i) **SCHEMES SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Those schemes incorporating physical measures which will have a greater impact on local residents and/or property owners, such as traffic calming measures and Traffic Regulation Orders which may supplement schemes, are subject to Statutory advertisement and objection periods. Pedestrian Crossings are also subject to the publication of Statutory Notices of Intention to install such facilities.

However, in addition to any necessary Statutory Notices being advertised, the consultation process for schemes falling into this category will also provide for feedback from the local residents/frontagers who would be most directly affected by the proposals, the emergency services, bus operators and Local Ward Members.

- ii) **SCHEMES NOT SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Those schemes which do not include physical measures or Traffic Regulation Orders but may consist of, for example, a combination of

road signs and markings, anti-skid/coloured surfacing or stand-alone speed camera initiatives.

Whereas schemes falling into this category would not involve a consultation exercise, it would still be normal practice to advise Local Ward Members prior to the commencement of any works on site.

5. A continuation of the principle to only carry out public consultation on schemes incorporating physical measures and/or Traffic Regulation Orders was endorsed by the Cabinet and 'Shadow' Cabinet Members for Transportation at their meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
6. The proposals outlined in the Appendices attached to this report may be subject to minor variations, amendments or modifications arising as a result of the consultation/design process, for example, the location of speed humps.

Any variations or modifications resulting in a material or significant departure from the original scheme concept would be subject to the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Transportation in consultation with the Director of the Urban Environment.

#### 7. Sustainable Transport

The contents of this report support the Council's Transport Policy by considering measures which could contribute to improved highway and pedestrian safety to the benefit of the local community.

### Finance

8. The implementation of proposals outlined within this report can be funded under the respective budget heads of the approved 2009/2010 Highways Minor Works Capital Programme.

### Law

9. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
10. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
11. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
12. Guardrails may be provided under Section 66 of the Highways Act 1990.
13. Pedestrian crossing facilities are provided under powers contained in Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to Regulations made by the Secretary of State.

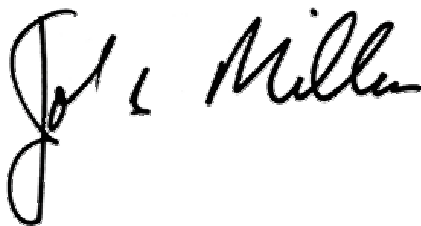
14. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.
15. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and to preserve or improve the environment.
16. The Highways Act 1980, as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 requires the installation of road humps to be advertised on-street and in the local newspaper for objections.

### **Equality Impact**

17. The proposals contained within this report comply with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy whilst also seeking to introduce measures that will be of direct benefit to children and some of the most vulnerable road users in the community including young children, the elderly, pedestrians, and those with impaired mobility.
18. The Council's Road Safety and Travel Awareness Officers liaise directly with School's Council's, which includes representatives from the schoolchildren themselves, in the preparation of School Travel Plans and the identification of measures that could be introduced as part of a Safer Routes to School initiative.

### **Recommendation**

19. That the Area Committee support the proposed Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings initiatives outlined in Appendices A, B and C respectively.



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## **List of Background Papers**

1. Capital Programme Decision Ref. No. 09/03 relating to the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block Allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/2011.
2. Capital Programme Decision Ref. No. 09/04 relating to the proposed 2009/2010 programmes of work for Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School and Pedestrian Crossings

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LOCAL SAFETY SCHEMES**

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|--|---|
| <b>1. A458 Stourbridge Road/Alexandra Road - Halesowen</b>                               | <b>Splitter island to prevent overtaking prior to Tesco/bus stop. Anti-skid to Pelican &amp; traffic signals</b>  |
| <b>2. Queensway Halesowen</b>  | <b>30mph speed limit, lining &amp; signing</b>  |
| <b>3. Whittingham Road, (frontage to Halesowen College) &amp; Furnace Lane Halesowen</b> | <b>Vertical traffic calming and variable message signs along Furnace Lane</b>   |
| <b>4. Kent Road, Halesowen</b>   | <b>Reduce to single lane as per south-bound carriageway, upgrade existing pelican crossing to puffin and larger pavement link from school and foot path, widen central reserve safe area.</b> |
| <b>5. Mucklow Hill, Halesowen (lower section eastbound between A459 roundabout</b>       | <b>Variable message signs/ lane width reduction/bend highlighting/central and B&amp;Q roundabout) reserve reflectorisation</b>  |
| <b>6. A459 Dudley Road/Furnace Hill Signals Halesowen</b>                                | <b>Refuge and wider splitters to aid Pedestrians and control right turn.</b>  |
| <b>7. Hurst Green Road, Halesowen (Dudley MBC) Tame Road (Sandwell MBC)</b>              | <b>Vertical traffic calming under bridge and over crest. Extent of scheme to be reviewed with Sandwell MBC for possible extension of traffic calming scheme along Tame Road.</b>              |

## **APPENDIX B**

### **SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL**

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|---|----------|---|
| <b>1. Wollescote Primary School, Wollescote</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>Footway widening &amp;<br/>Priority<br/>Give Way</b>   |
| <b>2. Olive Hill Primary School, Halesowen</b>  | <b>-</b> | <b>“20mph zone” Order on<br/>existing traffic calming</b> |

**PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS**

**Reserve Scheme**

1. Highfield Lane, Halesowen near - Pedestrian refuge  
medical community centre

As some schemes may be delayed or modified as a result of the consultation process, approval has also been given to use any residual funding to progress/implement schemes shown on the reserve list.

It should, however, be noted that other schemes being undertaken as a part of the local safety schemes and/or safer routes to school programmes of work also include facilities that directly benefit pedestrians.