

Agenda Item No. 4(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

19 June 2019

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

PETITION: HOLBROOK – REQUEST FOR 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(1) **Purpose of Report** To consider a petition received requesting the County Council introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout the village of Holbrook in Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At the meeting on 19 September 2018, the Cabinet Member acknowledged receipt of a petition requesting the County Council consider changing the speed limit throughout the entire village of Holbrook and part of Bargate to 20mph (Minute No. 81/18 refers). The statement detailed in the petition reads as follows:

“On behalf of the residents of the Parish of Holbrook, Derbyshire, we would like to request the Derbyshire County Council to consider changing the speed limit throughout the entire village of Holbrook (and part of Bargate), including Makeney Road and Belper Road, to 20mph.”

Background

The petition has been developed with a view to the residents of Holbrook all being contacted for their opinions/support on a request to implement a 20mph limit for the village.

In November 2015, the County Council implemented a 20mph speed limit trial site at Padfield, Glossop, with the intention of allowing the County Council to undertake a period of monitoring to assess the effectiveness of such a scheme. In May 2016, a report was considered by Cabinet regarding a scrutiny review of how 20mph speed limits are used in Derbyshire (Minute No.131/16 refers). Roads with 20mph limits are where the speed limit has been reduced to 20mph but there are no physical measures to reduce vehicle speeds within the areas. Drivers are alerted to the speed limit with boundary signs and repeater signs.

Following on from this report, a consultation exercise was carried out with all the County’s Elected Members. This resulted in a further two trial sites being

identified as 20mph limit pilot projects, at the meeting on 6 December 2016 (Minute No. 133/16 refers). Sites were selected in Brassington and Ilkeston, with an additional decision taken to include a further site in Fritchley.

Following on from the decisions taken in May and December 2016, a further report was presented to the Cabinet Member on 31 January 2019, entitled, 20mph Speed Limits in Derbyshire, a copy of the report is provided in Appendix 1.

This report was prepared on the analysis obtained from the trial site at Padfield, Glossop and the publication by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 22 November 2018 of its update on National Guidance for 20mph speed limits following further extensive trials from around the Country.

The analysis from the DfT case studies have shown a reduction in the average speed of under 1mph, coupled with no evidence to suggest that the reduction in speed limit has seen a reduction in the number of collisions or casualties.

Officer Comment

In terms of injury related collisions within the village of Holbrook, there have been five personal injury collisions within the last three years (1 December 2015 to 30 November 2018). This is the standard period of assessment. Four of the five collisions occurred along the length of Port Way/Town Street and none were of attributable factors that were related to vehicle speeds. The fifth reported collision occurred on Makeney Road and involved a vehicle rolling off a private driveway.

Apart from the speed and casualty reduction, much is made of the purported wider benefits of a 20mph speed limit. There is a perception that such speed limits improve people's perception of where they live, and lend themselves towards encouraging a greater uptake in walking and cycling, something which is made reference to in the petition submission. However, these perceptions are not evidenced by the qualitative surveys carried out by the County Council in Padfield and the DfT's study also provides little evidence to suggest this is the case either.

Given that the most important aspects of any road safety engineering measures are speed and casualty reduction, there is little to suggest from the County Council's trial site, collision history and the DfT's extensive research that the use of 20mph speed limits would be of significant benefit here.

It should be noted that, where there is a collision history and a reduction in speeds, it is necessary to reduce collisions and casualties, 20mph limits, supported by engineering measures if necessary, still have a role to play. However, this will only apply where casualty reduction is the main purpose of

the scheme. The Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership's Speed Management Protocol – Engineering Technical Annex gives guidance on where this may be appropriate.

Local Member Comment

Councillor Kevin Buttery has provided the following comments:

“I can understand residents’ requests to address speeding via the introduction of a blanket 20mph zone within Holbrook, which fortunately has had very few casualty collisions recorded in the last 5 years.

Many residents’ concerns tend to be as a result of drivers driving too fast for the road conditions as against exceeding the actual speed limit. However, there are always those who will ignore the speed limits, hence the 100,000 drivers nationally that were prosecuted last year.

Everyone has their own view, with supporting statistics, about the effectiveness of 20mph speed limits. Only recently, the Automobile Association criticised Councils, with the headlines “Council’s waste £11m of taxpayer’s money on ineffective 20mph speed limits”. Pointing out motorists are not going any slower and in some area fatalities increased.

I note that the long-term trials in Derbyshire mirrored the national picture, showing only a 1mph reduction in speed.

It is quite obvious that there is not one specific solution to improve road safety. It is therefore important that any resources are directed against specific problems that can provide positive outcomes, as part of an overall strategy to reduce casualty rates.

It is pleasing that so many residents have signed the petition, which means those drivers amongst them will reduce their speed, as they drive around the village. Hopefully, some will also form a Community Speed Watch to re-inforce the need to drive slowly and safely in the built-up areas.”

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Derbyshire County Council, as the local traffic authority, has the power under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to set local speed limits having regard to the guidance issued by the DfT.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Richard Handbury, extension 38569.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 The Cabinet Member rejects the proposal for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in the village of Holbrook.

8.2 The Local Member and Lead Petitioner be informed of the decision accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

Agenda Item No. 4(a)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

31 January 2019

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

20MPH SPEED LIMITS IN DERBYSHIRE

- (1) **Purpose of Report** To review the carrying out of 20mph speed limit trial sites in Derbyshire and to establish criteria for their future introduction.
- (2) **Information and Analysis**

Background

Under the previous administration, a report was considered by Cabinet on 3 May 2016 regarding a review of how 20mph speed limits are used in Derbyshire (Minute No. 131/16 refers).

Roads with 20mph limits are where the speed limit has been reduced to 20mph but there are no physical measures to reduce vehicle speeds within the areas. Drivers are alerted to the speed limit with boundary signs and repeater signs.

The 20mph zones use traffic calming measures such as road humps or build outs to reduce vehicle speeds, making the area largely self-enforcing.

Following on from the report, a consultation exercise was carried out with all the County's Local Members. This resulted in two trial sites being identified as 20mph limit pilot projects, at a meeting of the Cabinet Member - Highways, Transport and Infrastructure on 6 December 2016 (Minute No. 133/16 refers). These sites were in Brassington and Ilkeston. A decision to also include an extra site at Fritchley was made at this meeting.

Preliminary data collection only has been carried out at these sites, but no physical works or speed limit signs have yet been installed. Extensive data from an existing trial site in Padfield that has been fully implemented has also been collected and analysed.

The purpose of these trial sites was to provide information and guidance for more rural environments relevant to Derbyshire as much of the current national advice and guidance is centred on dense urban environments.

Officer Comment

The data collected at the Padfield trial site tallies with the existing national guidance which suggests a reduction in speed of around 1mph can be expected as a result of the implementation of a signed only 20mph speed limit. In terms of casualty reduction, no personal injury collisions were recorded in the five years prior to the scheme being introduced in Padfield. Since the scheme was implemented in November 2015, three injury related collisions have been recorded within the 20mph speed limited area, all categorised as “slight” in severity. There is no evidence that speed was a factor in any of these collisions.

The County Council has been awaiting updated national guidance following further extensive trials around the country, which was due in 2017. The Department for Transport (DfT) has now published its findings on 22 November 2018.

DfT’s case studies show a reduction to the average speed of under 1mph and no evidence to suggest that there has been any reductions in collisions and casualties. It should be noted that all the sites monitored during the study are urban areas where existing average speeds were typically below 24mph.

Apart from speed and casualty reduction, much is made of the purported wider benefits of a 20mph speed limit. The main non-tangible benefits that are mentioned by supporters are that 20mph limits improve peoples’ perception of where they live and have wider health benefits, such as encouraging walking and cycling. This is not evidenced by the qualitative survey carried out by the County Council in Padfield. The DfT’s study also provides little evidence to suggest that this is the case either. Given that the most important aspects of any road safety engineering measures are speed and casualty reduction, there is little to suggest from the County Council’s trial site and the DfT’s extensive research that the use of 20mph speed limits would be of significant benefit.

Therefore, in terms of “value for money”, it would be difficult to make a case in support of using a signed only 20mph speed limit. For example, the physical works involved in the Padfield scheme cost around £5,000 to implement (although, the overall cost of the scheme in terms of staff costs was much higher). This cost would usually be offset against the savings to society achieved by reducing the number and severity of accidents to calculate a cost/benefit ratio.

In the case of Padfield, it is not possible to do this calculation because collisions have increased, although they do not appear to be as a result of the trial.

In terms of injury related collisions at the suggested trial sites, there have been none recorded within the existing 30mph zone in Brassington and none in Fritchley over the latest three year period for which data is held (1 August 2015 to 31 July 2018). Therefore, from a casualty reduction point of view, there would be no return on any investment made at these sites. There have been eight slight injury collisions recorded within the area that has been identified in Ilkeston, and further investigations are currently underway to determine the cause and possible measures to reduce this number.

The Police are of the opinion that they would only support the introduction of lower speed limits where it can be demonstrated that such a change would be largely self-enforcing. Where a reduction to 20mph is concerned, this could well necessitate the introduction of physical traffic calming measures to achieve this, and the significant costs associated with installing and maintaining the infrastructure.

Bearing in mind the outcome of the DfT's case studies and experience in Padfield, it is recommended that no further work is carried out with the trials at Brassington and Fritchley as there is no collision history and no benefit to be gained. Further investigations at Ilkeston should continue to understand what measures, if any, might address the collision record.

It should be noted that, where there is a collision history and a reduction in speeds, it is necessary to reduce collisions and casualties, 20mph limits, supported by engineering measures if necessary, still have a role to play. However, this will only apply where casualty reduction is the main purpose of the scheme. The Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership's Speed Management Protocol – Engineering Technical Annex gives guidance on where this may be appropriate.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The trial sites were added to the approved Local Transport Plan 2016-17 Capital Programme of works with a budget of £40,000 to cover the three schemes.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Derbyshire County Council, as local traffic authority, has power under Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to set local speed limits having regard to the guidance issues by the DfT.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – James Biddlestone, extension 36892.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

8.1 The Cabinet Member approves that the trial sites for 20mph limit schemes at Brassington, Ilkeston and Fritchley, as identified at the meeting on 6 December 2016, should not be pursued any further at present.

8.2 The Local Members and relevant Parish/Town Councils be notified accordingly.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment