

Agenda Item No. 4(b)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

17 June 2021

Report of the Executive Director – Place

**PETITION REQUESTING THE INTRODUCTION OF TRAFFIC CALMING
MEASURES ON SMEDLEY STREET, MATLOCK**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of the investigations carried out following the receipt of a petition requesting the consideration of traffic calming measures, Smedley Street, Matlock, Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Receipt of the petition was acknowledged by the Cabinet Member on 9 July 2020 (Minute No. 29/20 refers). The petition contains 50 signatures and reads as follows:

“We the undersigned, are residents or frequent visitors to Smedley Street, Matlock. We are increasingly concerned about the speed of traffic passing through the area, often in excess of 30mph. Both sides of the road have parked cars, which makes visibility difficult and given the number of children either walking to School or visiting All Saints Church, we believe it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. We therefore call upon the County Council to urgently consider the situation and introduce traffic calming measures in order to reduce the risks.”

Officer Comment

Smedley Street, Matlock is subject to a 30mph speed limit and runs from Rutland Street/Bank Road to Far Green. Smedley Street to the east of Far Green has a mixture of business, residential properties, All Saints Church and County Hall. Limited waiting parking bays are in place, on both sides of the road. As mentioned in the petition, the main area of interest is Smedley Street to the east of Far Green and to its junction with Wellington Street. For location details please see Appendix A.

There are two tactile crossing places, one either side of the junction with Far Green to assist pedestrians crossing the road.

To help protect junctions, double yellow lines are provided on Smedley Street at the junction with Far Green/Dimple Road. A single yellow line is also provided at the junction with Malvern Gardens, Smith Road and Wellington Street.

School Safety Zone signs, with the legend 20mph when lights flash, are provided outside No155/157 Smedley Street and No168 Smedley Street West, which help to provide a warning to motorists of pedestrians accessing All Saints Primary School located on Dimple Road.

Derbyshire County Council receives many requests for safety measures and highway improvements from across the County. To ensure that requests for traffic calming schemes from across the County are treated on a consistent basis, a speed management protocol document has been developed which amongst other factors, highlights the required injury collision record to justify the expenditure of our resource (See Appendix B). The use of identifiable known hard facts and figures provides a robust basis and justification.

The basic criteria for the introduction of engineering measures, such as road markings and signs, are three personal injury collisions over the last three years. For the introduction of more extensive engineering measures, such as road humps or buildouts, the criteria are seven personal injury collisions over the last three years.

There has been no injury collision recorded on Smedley Street from its junction with Far Green to its junction with Wellington Street over the last three years (Latest data 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2020). Officers have also looked at the triangle of roads in the vicinity of All Saints Infant School, including Sycamore Road, Dimple Road and Smedley Street West and can report that there have been no injury collisions recorded over this same period.

Local Member Comments

Councillor Burfoot has made the following comments:

"As County Councillor for Matlock and Tansley, I fully support the petitioners in their request for the County Council, as Highway Authority, to introduce traffic calming measures in this area to slow down the traffic and reduce risk to all users.

In 'normal' non-Covid times, this area is a very busy street, given its close proximity to County Hall, All Saints Church and Church Hall, local schools and a nursery.

Residents and users signing this petition and I myself, know from experience that many motorists clearly exceed the speed limit despite the dangers posed by their actions. There are no safe crossing points. There is evidence of wing mirrors being torn off and near misses to pedestrians as a result of speeding

motorists. Such near misses and damage to parked vehicles will not of course show up in any statistics.

Pedestrian use of this area is increased of course twice a day when there are large numbers of pupils/parents walking to and from school, including to the nursery and Highfields Upper site. Traffic flows at these times are also great especially in the morning.

We all agree that road safety is a priority to reduce risk, and perceived risk and fear of accidents caused by speeding vehicles.

Speeding motorists has made walking or cycling in this area dangerous at a time when we should be encouraging this by providing safer routes and by reducing vehicle speeds and introducing traffic calming measures.

Traffic calming, as I understand it, is using physical measures to calm down and slow down traffic so that pedestrians/cyclists are not dominated by traffic, and our streets are made safer for all. All users benefit including pedestrians, cyclists, parents with buggies, people in wheelchairs, etc, and indeed motorists themselves.

The Traffic Calming Act 1992 which amended the Highways Act 1980 permits the introduction of various forms of traffic calming for the purpose of promoting safety and preserving or improving the environment. The Department of Transport encourages walking and cycling.

A traffic calming scheme and measures to reduce speed can provide an opportunity for the local community to get involved.

I realise that there are many possible traffic calming measures and speed reduction methods and our professional officers can of course use their expertise to recommend the most appropriate ones. I would assume that speed humps 'sleeping policemen' are not appropriate in this vicinity as properties are so close to the street and would cause noise nuisance. I have always supported the National campaign for 20mph to become the national default speed limit on residential and urban streets. I would support a 20mph zone in this area and indeed the wider area.

Finally, volume of traffic and pedestrian use is reduced during the Covid pandemic especially as many County Hall staff are working from home, many of the shops on Smedley Street are closed and all schools are closed except for children of key workers and vulnerable children.

Any data therefore undertaken at this time would not give a true picture of the problem.

I have been reliably informed that speeding continues to be an issue even when it is less busy as there are less opportunities for cars to slow down because of parked cars. A resident's car was written off in October 2020 whilst parked outside his own house on this part of Smedley Street by an alleged speeding, drunk driver who was arrested by the Police."

Bearing in mind the collision history at this location, the request for the installation of traffic calming measures, such as road humps at this location, is to be refused at this time.

It must be remembered that speed limits are the maximum speed at which vehicles may legally travel, they are not target speeds: Motorists should always reduce their speed, when, for example:

- the road layout presents hazards, such as bends;
- you are sharing the road with pedestrians and;
- there are adverse weather conditions; or
- you are driving at night – as it is harder to see other road users and possible obstructions.

The report of excessive speeds is a matter for the Police/CREST (Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team) who are responsible for the enforcement of speed limits. CREST is the enforcement arm of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership and contributes to the operations Derbyshire Constabulary perform. Officers have reported the alleged abuse of the speed limit to CREST for investigation.

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

(4) **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.

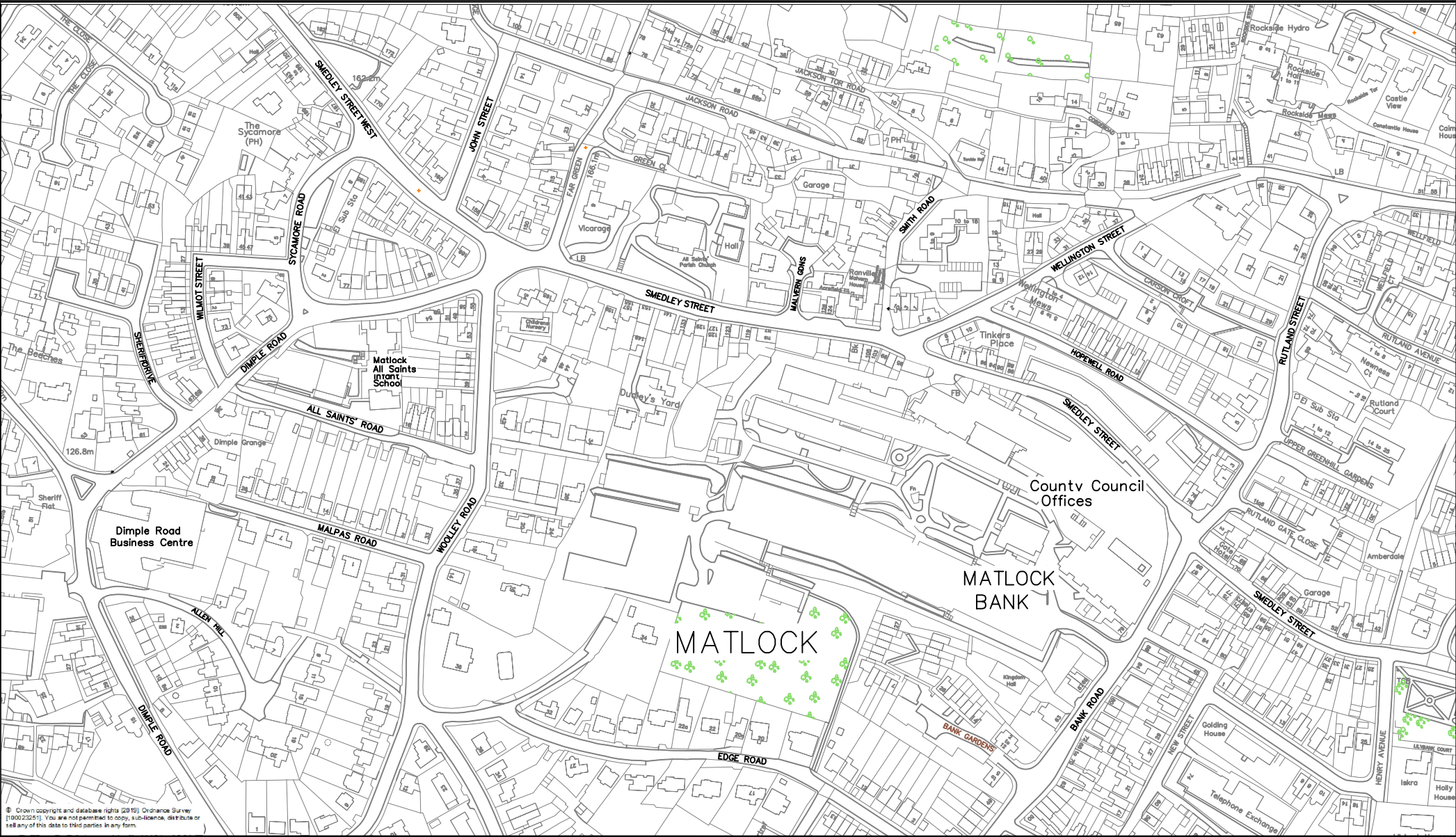
(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

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

- 8.1 In accordance with the County Council's Speed Management Protocol, the introduction of Traffic Calming measures is not justified on Smedley Street, Matlock at this time.
- 8.2 The Local Member and lead petitioner be informed accordingly.

Chris Henning
Executive Director – Place



© Crown copyright and database rights (2015). Ordnance Survey (100023251). You are not permitted to copy, sub-license, distribute or sell any of this data to third parties in any form.



Chris Henning
Executive Director - Place



AMENDMENT DETAILS

BY CHKD APVD DATE NO.

PROJECT TITLE	MATLOCK TOWN PLAN DRAWING			
DRAWING TITLE	CONSULTATION DRAWING			

DRAWN J.HARRISON	CHECKED L.WRIGHT	APPROVED L.WRIGHT
Date 19/01/2021	Date 19/01/2021	Date 19/01/2021
Project / Confirm Reference No.	PROJECT/CONFIRM_REF	SCALE
Drawing Number	HMT/???/???/??	N.T.S
ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE 297 x 210 (A4)		

Agenda Item No. 6(e)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

16 November 2017

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - APPROVAL
OF SPEED MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL ENGINEERING TECHNICAL ANNEX
(HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership Engineering Technical Annexes to the proposed Speed Management Protocol (SMP).

(2) **Information and Analysis** In order to progress the development of the proposed Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership SMP, policies and procedures for all partner organisations, i.e. Derbyshire Constabulary, Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team (CREST) and Derby City Council, need to be reviewed and compiled into a series of technical annexes. The annexes need to reflect the current practice and priorities of each of the partner organisations in dealing with speed related matters.

The demands upon the Council's highway service and its budgets are high and it is important that requests for improvements are dealt with in a consistent manner with regard to delivering the most cost effective way of continuing and maintaining road safety on the network.

The intention of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership, Engineering Technical Annex will therefore be to categorise all engineering measures available and to identify the circumstances where such measures will and will not be used.

In order to facilitate this, it has been necessary to combine and update all existing technical policies in relation to any engineering measures that may be deployed in resolving speed related matters, as well as defining the conditions or criteria that will be applied for each type of measure.

The measures employed to help resolve speed related matters, with accompanying description and criteria that are covered within the Technical Annex, are:

- Speed Limits (urban and rural)

- 20mph Speed Limits and Zones
- Traffic Regulation Orders
- Speed Limit Changes
- Vehicle Activated Signs
- Horizontal Traffic Calming (build-outs, chicanes and priority narrowing)
- Vertical Traffic Calming (road humps, speed cushions, speed tables, plateau)

The approval of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership, Engineering Technical Annexes will provide a clear step to a more consistent and transparent approach to Economy, Transport and Communities Highways Traffic and Safety Engineering at this early stage of the development of the SMP.

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

(4) **Social Value Considerations** The purpose of the SMP is to provide a consistent approach to the management of speed and concerns about speeding vehicles on the roads of Derbyshire. It aims to reduce casualties, improve the safety and quality of life for residents and those who travel through, whilst involving local communities in decisions affecting their local area. The associated technical annexes are a key aspect in supporting the SMP.

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 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 within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Neill Bennett, extension 38659.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet approves the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership, Engineering Technical Annexes to the proposed Speed Management Protocol.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership - Speed Management Protocol

Engineering Technical Annex

1 Contents

1	SPEED LIMITS.....	3
1.1	Speed limits in urban areas.....	3
1.2	Speed limits in rural areas.....	4
1.3	20mph Speed Limits and Zones.....	5
1.4	Traffic Regulation Orders	5
1.4.1	Speed limit ranking scheme.....	6
1.5	Speed limit change	7
1.6	Community speed watch	7
2	VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS).....	8
2.1	Introduction.....	8
2.2	Installation and Monitoring Criteria	9
2.3	Permanent and Temporary VAS - Funding by Borough, District or Parish/Town Councils....	10
2.4	Mobile VAS	10
3	TRAFFIC CALMING/SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES.....	10
3.1	Road Humps.....	11
3.2	Build-outs, Chicanes and Priority Narrowing	12
3.3	Road Markings.....	13
4	TABLE 1: IDENTIFIED TREATMENTS AND THEIR CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.....	14
5	TABLE 2: MEAN AND 85TH PERCENTILE SPEED THRESHOLDS.....	16

1 SPEED LIMITS

Derbyshire County Council is responsible for setting speed limits on all roads in the County, and Derby City is responsible for those in its jurisdiction, and motorways and trunk roads – the M1, A38, A50, A52 (east of Derby), A5111, parts of the A6 and the A628 – which are the responsibility of Highways England. Any queries about speed limits on these routes can be directed via e-mail to info@highwaysengland.co.uk or by calling 0300 123 5000.

Speed limits are introduced to ensure greater road safety and should seek to balance this with accessibility and environmental objectives, improving the quality of life for local communities. Any changes we make to speed limits must adhere to criteria as set out by the Department for Transport (DfT).

Speed limits are the maximum speed at which vehicles may legally travel – they are not target speeds: You should always reduce your speed when:

- the road layout presents hazards, such as bends;
- you are sharing the road with pedestrians and;
- there are adverse weather conditions; or
- you are driving at night – as it is harder to see other road users and possible obstructions.

Balancing the need to travel and overcoming social exclusion and strengthening rural communities are also key, but must be carefully assessed against reducing road traffic collision. The promotion and education of safe and considerate driving and encouraging road users to adopt appropriate speeds on our roads is also important to the success of speed limits. The responsibility for the enforcement of speed limits lies solely with the Police and instances of speeding can be reported to your local Police officers by dialling their 101 non-emergency number. In future the development of an area on the partnership website with appropriate links will facilitate the reporting of all speed related matters.

In January 2006, the DfT published guidance circular 01/2006 on ‘Setting Local Speed Limits’* which sought a common national approach on the setting of limits, highlighting the need to manage speed in a way that is appropriate for the road function and local characteristics. Following release of this guidance, routes in Derbyshire were reviewed and changes to speed limits implemented where appropriate - [* circular 01/2006 has now been replaced by circular 01/2013 – see link below]:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/setting-local-speed-limits>

1.1 Speed limits in urban areas

DfT guidance states:

“Urban roads by their nature are complex as they need to provide for safe travel on foot, bicycle and by motorised traffic. Lower speeds benefit all urban road

users, and setting appropriate speed limits is therefore an important factor in improving urban safety.”

On roads where a recognised system of street lighting is present (where there are 3 or more lighting columns not more than 183m apart) the default speed limit will be **30mph**, unless there are signs in place indicating a different limit, and will be signed accordingly where the street lights start. Such roads will have a significant degree of frontage development with pedestrian activity and the presence of driveways, junctions, traffic signals and crossings. By law we cannot put in additional 30mph (repeater) signs where street lighting is present.

A **40mph** speed limit is generally appropriate on higher quality suburban roads away with less frontage development but with side roads, some bends and traffic signals or pedestrian crossings. Repeater signs are required.

In exceptional circumstances, **50mph** speed limits may be introduced on roads where the environment and characteristics allow this speed to be achieved safely – e.g. dual carriageways, radial routes or bypasses. Higher speed limits encourages urban through traffic to use routes of this nature rather than less suitable residential streets.

Where roads do not have a speed limit and are unlit, the national limit applies and drivers are expected to drive to the conditions. The following link provides a summary of national speed limits with reference to vehicle type:-

<https://www.gov.uk/speed-limits>

1.2 Speed limits in rural areas

DfT guidance stipulates that **30mph** is considered the norm in villages, based on a simple criteria relating to the density of frontage development and distance:

- There should be **20** or more houses on one or both sides of the road, over a length of around 600m. This can be less if the level and density of development exceeds the 20 or more houses criterion. In instances where there are less than 20 houses, an extra allowance can be given for key buildings – i.e. churches, community centres, schools, etc.
- A preferred length of 600m is desirable to avoid too many changes of speed limit along the route, which could lead to motorists disregarding the changes.

In the absence of street lighting, 30mph repeater signs will be required.

70mph is the maximum speed limit for cars on dual carriageways and motorways.

The national speed limit applies to single carriageway roads (maximum of 60mph) that have very sparse development, are of a high quality, and have a strategic function.

Lowering the speed limit to **50mph** can be considered where there are a high number of bends, junctions or accesses and a high level of injury collisions.

A speed limit of **40mph** may be considered in very exceptional circumstances in an area of outstanding national beauty or across, or adjacent to, unenclosed common land; or if they form part of a recommended route for vulnerable road users. Such a special application would need, however, to be done in association with the DfT and in discussion with a national park authority.

Speed limits on single carriageway rural roads should take into account: the collision history, the road's function, existing average traffic speed, level of use by vulnerable road users, the road's geometry and engineering, and the environment, including the level of road-side development.

Terminal signs (at the start of a speed limit) must be positioned as close as practicable to the start of a built-up area. Where forward visibility is restricted, signs may be extended outwards to meet standard forward visibility requirements.

1.3 20mph Speed Limits and Zones

These can be differentiated as follows:-

- 20mph limits, which consist of just a speed limit change to 20mph which is indicated by the speed limit (and repeater) signs, and
- 20mph zones, are designed to be “self-enforcing” due to traffic calming measures that are introduced along with the change in the speed limit.

Note – refer to Table 1 in section 4 for consideration criteria

20mph speed limits/zones are introduced sparingly, with casualty reduction being a priority for the selection of such schemes.

A number of 20mph zones are in operation in Derbyshire. They should be self-enforcing and so are usually only appropriate in areas where speeds are already naturally low or where a suitable package of traffic calming measures can be used to ensure compliance with the speed limit.

1.4 Traffic Regulation Orders

The imposition of any new speed limit, or amendment to an existing speed limit, requires a Traffic Regulation Order to be made. This is a legal process which includes a statutory consultation with public bodies such as the Police, Borough/District and Parish/Town Councils. A public notice period is also required – where details are advertised both on site and in the local press - to give local residents and road users the opportunity to comment on the proposal. Any representations need to be considered that in turn may

result in changes to the original proposal. Where powers are delegated, representations can be dealt with by a delegated senior officer.

Once a proposal has been approved, the necessary signs are ordered and arrangements made for them to be in place on a certain date to coincide with the date the Order comes into force; the Order is then enforceable by the Police.

This entire process – from investigation to implementation – can take between 6 and 12 months to complete.

Introducing a Traffic Regulation Order is both a time consuming and costly process. We receive many requests for speed limits and therefore apply a points-based scoring system to allow such requests to be prioritised. This allows resources to be better targeted at those areas which highlight an issue with collisions. The ranking scheme is included below.

1.4.1 Speed limit ranking scheme

Subject	Parameters	Points range	Points scored
Collisions	Serious and Fatal Slight Non-Injury Sub-total score Divided by crash exposure value: (volume (volume per day) x length (m) x 365) x 2 Total collision component score	10 5 1 = =	
Capital scheme or developer funded	Yes No	5 0	
Road hierarchy	A road B road C road Unclassified	5 4 3 2	
Enforceability (based upon 85 percentile speed)	New limit self-enforcing Supporting engineering features required Regular Police enforcement	5 0 -5	
Benefits of scheme to vulnerable road users	Possible improvement No change Deterioration	2 0 -2	

Subject	Parameters	Points range	Points scored
Benefits to schools	Possible improvement No change Deterioration	2 0 -2	
Benefits to elderly/mobility impaired	Possible improvement No change Deterioration	2 0 -2	
Benefits to local facilities/businesses	Possible improvement No change Deterioration	2 0 -2	
Effect on emergency services response times	Possible improvement No change Deterioration	2 0 -2	
Support from residents	Yes No overall support Residents not in support	2 0 -2	
Support from community and/or special interest groups	Yes No support forthcoming Against proposals	2 0 -2	
Cost of speed limit, including advertisements and associated works	<£5,000 £5,000 to £7,500 £7,500 to £10,000 £10,000 to £15,000 > £15,000	10 8 6 3 1	
		Total	

1.5 Speed limit change

Excess speeds alone are unlikely to justify the lowering of an existing speed limit. The speed limit will have been implemented according to DfT guidance and will be appropriate for the character of the road and level of built-up development. The vast majority of drivers will choose to drive at speeds they feel are appropriate and unnaturally low speed limits will be ignored. Compliance could be achieved by introducing a package of traffic calming measures but, in the absence of a speed-related injury collision history, the expenditure would be difficult to justify.

1.6 Community speed watch

Community Speed Watch is administered by the Police and will be an option in dealing with speed related matters. In future, the development of an area on the partnership website with appropriate links will facilitate the reporting of all speed related matters

2 VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS (VAS)

2.1 Introduction

This guidance puts in place detailed procedures to be followed in considering the installation of permanent, temporary or mobile VAS.

VAS have become a popular, effective, less intrusive form of speed-reduction which can be used as an alternative to more physical measures. These are electronic signs which display a symbol and/or message when triggered by a vehicle travelling at a specific pre-set speed – the threshold speed usually being set at 10% + 2mph above the posted speed limit (e.g. 35mph in a 30mph limit). They are often introduced to supplement rather than replace traditional signing and lining, and are aimed at addressing specific road safety problems. However, note that those displaying a speed limit sign only should be set at speed limit +2mph, see criteria 2.2(b) below).

Note – refer to Table 1 in section 4 for consideration criteria

Both **permanent** and **temporary** VAS measures have been used in Derbyshire and Derby City. Research has shown that the effectiveness of permanent VAS reduces as motorists become familiar with them. The advantages of a temporary VAS is that it can be moved around between a number of sites; remaining at one site for a number of months before being moved to another site before motorists become familiar with it. The sign can then be redeployed to the same site several months later to retain its effectiveness.

VAS have been developed in Derbyshire and Derby City to address not only problems of exceeding speed limits, but also to encourage drivers to approach hazards – such as bends or junctions – at a safe speed, and to provide hazard warnings where conventional signing alone has not been effective. Analysis of existing sites has shown that, where these signs have been introduced in response to injury collision problems, they have resulted in immediate and ongoing improvements to the casualty record. There are still relatively few signs of this nature in Derbyshire and Derby City but there are concerns that to introduce them on a widespread basis would cause drivers to become used to them and their effect would diminish. In response to these concerns we apply a stringent set of criteria to each application we receive, to guard against over-proliferation and to ensure that signs are introduced where they are most needed. This allows the Councils to determine their priorities for investment in VAS and to inform other bodies about where signs will be deployed and where installation is likely to be refused.

The protocol dictates that all of the following criteria must be met for VAS:

- 2.1(a) VAS should be considered at sites that have a **collision history associated with inappropriate speed**, or a hazard, that has not been satisfactorily remedied by standard signing. Other signing means must have been tried and have failed; the site must have been subject to a recent speed survey to determine justification for a VAS installation.

- 2.1(b) VAS displaying a speed limit should be located at sites which have a history of a **minimum of 6 injury collisions within 1km over the previous 3 years** and where speed has been a factor in some, if not all the collisions.
- 2.1(c) VAS displaying a speed limit should be located at sites where the results of traffic surveys show the 85th percentile speed is at least 10% over the speed limit +2mph, measured over a 7-day period. [The 85th percentile is the speed at which up to 85% of the traffic is travelling].
- 2.1(d) Hazard warning VAS should be located at sites which have a history of a **minimum of 6 injury collisions within 1km over the previous 3 years**, and where the hazard has been the cause.
- 2.1(e) Requests for VAS that meet these criteria should be prioritised on the basis of a calculated estimate of casualty reduction benefits.
- 2.1(f) The flexibility of temporary VAS means they are the preferred option but the decision on which type of VAS to be used should be made on a case by case basis. To retain effectiveness, temporary VAS should remain on site for **no longer than 3 months and should not be redeployed at the same site within 6 months**.

2.2 Installation and Monitoring Criteria

- 2.2(a) VAS warning of a hazard should be set to operate at the 50th percentile speed measured before installation. However, discretion may be used to change this depending on the road conditions.
- 2.2(b) VAS displaying a speed limit should normally be set to operate at 10% + 2mph above the posted speed limit (e.g. 35mph in a 30mph limit). However, discretion may be used to change this depending on the road conditions.
- 2.2(c) The section of road in advance of the VAS must be straight over a reasonable distance to maximise visibility to the sign.
- 2.2(d) There should be little or no vegetation or street furniture that will block the view of the sign or affect the working of the radar equipment.
- 2.2(e) There must be sufficient footway or roadside verge to install the sign. There must also be reasonable access to a power supply.
- 2.2(f) The sign should, wherever possible, not be intrusive to nearby residential properties and early consultation should be sought to establish residents' views. If the sign is proposed within the Peak District National Park, early consultation with the National Park Authority should be sought.
- 2.2(g) VAS displaying a speed limit should be located between 100 metres and 200 metres beyond the start of the posted speed limit sign, except in

urban areas with street lighting where a 30mph speed limit operates and where repeater signs are not allowed.

- 2.2(h) VAS warning of a hazard should be located between 50 metres and 100 metres in advance of that hazard.
- 2.2(i) Permanent VAS should be routinely inspected every six months and provided with regular maintenance, such as cleaning the sign face, removing any obstructing foliage and ensuring that the vehicle detection system is functioning correctly.
- 2.2(j) All VAS installations should be monitored for effectiveness by regular analysis of speed data and collision records. Any that are considered ineffective should be removed.

2.3 Permanent and Temporary VAS - Funding by Borough, District or Parish/Town Councils

Where a local council has requested a VAS, which meets criteria for inclusion in the County Council's programmes but is a low priority for installation at the County Council's expense, then the local council may fund the installation. The Funder must undertake to be responsible for all costs, including long-term maintenance for the life of the installation, and removal if required. All selection, installation and monitoring criteria above will apply, with the exception of criteria 2.1(e).

2.4 Mobile VAS

Mobile VAS differ from temporary VAS as they are completely mobile and do not require pre-prepared sites, and may be deployed in locations which would not meet the criteria for permanent or temporary sites. Currently, there are no mobile VAS operating, but are included as they may be employed in the future. Decisions on where they may be deployed, and the length of deployment, should be taken through established selection and consultation procedures of the sign's owner, either the County Council, Derby City or Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership. The owner may seek contributions to costs from the local council requesting the installation. In no circumstances should mobile VAS be deployed for longer than the three month limit applying to temporary installations.

3 TRAFFIC CALMING/SPEED REDUCTION MEASURES

Derbyshire County Council and Derby City, as local Highway Authorities, are committed to the reduction of casualties on their highway networks. There are a number of traffic calming measures available to help reduce traffic speeds, and discourage inappropriate through traffic, in order to achieve casualty reduction on our roads.

We receive many requests for traffic calming measures which far outweigh the limited funding available for such schemes. Our funds must therefore be targeted at areas with a history of speed-related collisions resulting in **personal injury**; prioritised to those locations with the greatest number of collisions, with pattern and severity also taken into account. Sites of concern are identified either from data analysis (speed surveys and collision history) or from members of the public, in person or via their parish/town council/County Council Member. Measures can only be introduced at locations where there is an identifiable problem (e.g. trend in collisions) and will be chosen based on the likelihood of an improvement to the road safety record being achieved.

Note – refer to Table 1 in section 4 for consideration criteria

The responsibility for the enforcement of speed limits lies solely with the Police and instances of speeding can be reported to your local Police officers by dialling their 101 non-emergency number. In future the development of an area on the partnership website with appropriate links will facilitate the reporting of all speed related matters.

Below is a description of some of the speed-reduction measures we can consider, given the right circumstances. Physical calming measures - such as road humps or speed cushions (vertical deflection), build-outs and chicanes (horizontal deflection) – are costly and generally not well supported by the public and so we will tend to consider less intrusive measures wherever possible.

3.1 Road Humps

Perhaps the most recognisable form of traffic calming, **road humps** (commonly referred to as ‘sleeping policemen’), can be used to reduce traffic speeds and discourage inappropriate through-traffic on residential roads in order to lessen the risk of speed-related collisions occurring.

A road hump is rarely introduced in isolation and a scheme would normally include several humps, set at regular intervals, in order to reduce speeds consistently over the given route.

A variation on road humps are **speed cushions**. Unlike road humps, speed cushions form small plateaux across the width of the carriageway with gaps in between. Arguably not as effective as road humps, speed cushions do, however, allow easier passage for wider vehicles (such as those used by the emergency services) as they can straddle either side of the plateau; a useful alternative to road humps on busy bus routes and those heavily trafficked by heavy goods vehicles.

Speed Tables take the form of single, raised ‘table-top’ plateaux across the width of the carriageway. In addition to achieving reductions in speed, tables also provide a safe crossing place for pedestrians, across the top of the plateau, where traffic speeds will be at their lowest.

Measures of vertical deflection, as described above, can only be introduced on roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less, and where street lighting is present. We are also

governed by the Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999 which state that humps are to:

- be between 25mm and 100mm high;
- have a minimum length of 900mm;
- be either curved or flat topped, and
- be spaced at between 20m and 150m.

There will need to be very clear justification on grounds of road safety for any of these measures to be introduced as they are not well supported by the general public due to their detrimental effects. These measures will invariably create a level of noise/vibration pollution for local residents. The need for associated signage and street lighting can also be considered detrimental to the aesthetic of residential areas. Given the lack of support, less intrusive measures may be more appropriate in most situations where traffic calming is required.

3.2 Build-outs, Chicanes and Priority Narrowing

The benefit of horizontal deflection over vertical deflection is that vehicles do not have to travel over a physical feature and therefore problems of noise/vibration pollution are removed.

Such measures can often take the form of **chicanes** which uses features to either narrow the carriageway – allowing for two way traffic flow at slower speeds – or gives priority to drivers travelling in a certain direction, creating a break in traffic flow and reducing speeds.

Chicanes can be formed by creating **footway build-outs**; widening of the footway into the carriageway to provide improved visibility for pedestrians wishing to cross the road. This is of particular advantage on residential roads with high levels of parked cars. Build-outs introduced in isolation would not necessarily be used as a speed-reducing technique but the ‘narrowing’ of the carriageway will encourage some drivers to reduce speeds. A number of build-outs, introduced at strategic locations, will create a chicane effect and help to control traffic speeds along the route in question. Build-outs can be difficult to achieve where there are many private driveways restricting their positioning.

Priority narrowing is usually created through footway build-outs, extending into the carriageway to such a degree as to limit it to one-way traffic flow. The effect of this is that vehicles travelling in one direction have to give way to oncoming traffic, creating a break in traffic flow and subsequently reducing speeds. This measure does rely on oncoming traffic to be effective. A steady flow of traffic in either direction is needed and, if the balance is not right, can result in drivers speeding up to get through the gap first.

Footway build-outs and priority narrowing are often viewed as too intrusive by residents due to the associated kerbing required for the build-outs and signing/illumination of the priority system. An additional consequence of all forms of horizontal deflection is that it

invariably removes lengths of on-street parking, which is unfavourable in areas where such provision is in high demand.

Less intrusive measures will be considered wherever possible.

As with vertical measures, horizontal measures can only be introduced on roads with a speed limit of 30mph or less, and where street lighting is present.

3.3 Road Markings

Before using any of the above measures, we will normally consider whether road markings could be used at sites which suffer from a poor road safety record. The use of road markings can be a cost-effective measure in resolving certain speed-related injury problems.

An example of road markings we may consider are **rumble strips**. These would normally take the form of slightly raised strips, set across the entire width of the carriageway, and a different colour to the road surface. The strips cause vibration when driven over to alert drivers to reduce their speed and are typically used to draw attention to a change in speed limit – e.g. at the entrance to villages where there have been collision problems. Due to the noise generated by rumble strips, we are not recommended to introduce them within 200 metres of residential properties.

Another technique we may adopt is **visually narrowing road markings**, usually taking the form of white hatching placed down the centre of the carriageway. This creates a visual effect of narrow traffic lanes, reducing speeds and keeping opposing vehicle flows away from each other. They also encourage lower speeds when overtaking cyclists or parked vehicles. **'SLOW'** road markings can also be considered at problem locations.

4 TABLE 1: IDENTIFIED TREATMENTS AND THEIR CRITERIA FOR CONSIDERATION OF IMPLEMENTATION

Treatment Type	Treatment	Criteria	Considerations
Engineering	20mph zones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only available for existing 30mph speed limit areas. • Not available for arterial/strategic routes. • 6 personal injury collisions over 1km (pro rata) in the latest 3 years. • Recorded mean speed and 85th percentile should be approximately 20mph. 	Traffic Regulation Order legal process required
Engineering	Speed Limit Change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current speed limit assessed and not appropriate. • Procedure to rank and prioritise requests for speed limits is applied. • 	Traffic Regulation Order legal process which is subject to the public and statutory bodies opinion.
Engineering	Permanent Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 personal injury collisions over 1km in the latest 3 years, where either a trend can be identified or speed has been a factor in some of the collisions. • Site or Route Specific Road Markings and/or Traffic Signs methods have been evaluated and not worked • 85th percentile recorded speed has exceeded the threshold specified in Table 2. • Other traffic calming measures inappropriate due to strategic nature, hierarchy and importance of the route and to avoid the use of less appropriate routes. 	Speed or specific collision trend required. Road user can become familiar.
Engineering	Temporary VAS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 personal injury collisions over 1km in the latest 3 years, where either a trend can be identified or speed 	Road user less likely to become familiar and effectiveness is retained. VAS should remain in place for no longer than 3 months and not

Treatment Type	Treatment	Criteria	Considerations
		<p>has been a factor in some of the collisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site or Route Specific Road Markings, Traffic Signs and other engineering methods have been evaluated and not worked. • 85th percentile recorded speed has exceeded the threshold specified in Table 2. • Other traffic calming measures inappropriate due to strategic nature, hierarchy and importance of the route and to avoid the use of less appropriate routes. 	<p>redeployed at the same site within 6 months (subject to resourcing and funding).</p>
Engineering	Horizontal Traffic Calming Measures (build-outs, chicanes and priority narrowing).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 personal injury collisions over 1km (pro-rata) in the latest 3 years in an area or. • Identified rat-running route. • Current speed limit is 30mph or less. • Street lighting must be present. 	<p>Limited noise and vibration issues.</p> <p>Difficult to implement where there are private driveways. Often viewed as intrusive by residents.</p> <p>Additional traffic signing and illumination is required which has an environmental impact.</p> <p>Amount of on-street parking provided will be reduced.</p>
Engineering	Vertical Traffic Calming Measures (road humps/speed cushions/speed tables/plateaux).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 personal injury collisions over 1km (pro-rata) in the latest 3 years in an area or. • Identified rat-running route with more desirable alternative route available. • Current speed limit is 30mph or less. • Street lighting must be present. • Cannot be provided on the strategic road network where there is a high proportion of heavy goods vehicle traffic. 	<p>Size/height, etc, is prescribed by Highways (Road Humps) Regulations 1999.</p> <p>Can provide additional noise and vibration issues for residents.</p> <p>Additional traffic signing required which has an environmental impact.</p>
Engineering	Site Specific Road Markings (rumble strips).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 personal injury collisions over 1 km in the latest 3 years 	<p>Noise impact upon nearby properties.</p>

Treatment Type	Treatment	Criteria	Considerations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot be located within 200m of a residential property. 	
Engineering	Site or Route Specific Road Markings (white hatching/narrow lanes/SLOW markings) and or Traffic Signs. Reductions in signs and markings where beneficial to safety.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 personal injury collisions over 1 km in the latest 3 years. 	Environmental considerations, where signs and markings have a little impact upon road safety. Asset reduction and consideration to energy costs.

5 TABLE 2: MEAN AND 85TH PERCENTILE SPEED THRESHOLDS

Speed Limit	Threshold (mean speeds)	Threshold (85th percentile speeds)
20mph	20mph	24mph
30mph	30mph	35mph
40mph	40mph	46mph
50mph	50mph	57mph
60mph	60mph	68mph