

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND WASTE –
CLLR BRIDGET WAYMAN**

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

OFFICER CONTACT: David Thomas 01225 713312 email: dave.thomas@wiltshire.gov.uk

REFERENCE: HTW-02-17

SPEED LIMIT – BRADFORD ON AVON 20 MPH NORTH AND SOUTH

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments received following the formal advertisement of speed limit changes associated with the request for a 20 mph speed limit in Bradford on Avon North and South, and to recommend an appropriate way forward.

Consultation

The proposals have been developed following prioritisation of this request by the Bradford on Avon Area Board. The assessment report has been considered and supported by Bradford on Avon Town Council and Community Area Transport Groups (CATGs).

Options Considered

To:

- (i) Implement the advertised changes.
- (ii) Abandon the proposals and retain the existing restriction.

Reason for Decision

The proposals have been assessed and are in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department for Transport, Circular 01/13 'Setting Local Speed Limits', and Wiltshire Council's own adopted policy for 20 mph restrictions.

DECISION MADE

I approve that:

- (i) The proposals be implemented as advertised.
- (ii) The objectors be informed accordingly.

This decision was published on _____ and will come into force on _____

The following supporting documents are attached:

- Appendix 1 – Leaflet Plan
- Appendix 2 – Comments Received/Officer Comment
- Appendix 3 – List of commenters
- Appendix 4 – 20mph Speed Restriction Assessment report

The following supporting documents are available from the officer named above:

Letters of comment

Date...7 June 2017.....

Signed.....

Cllr Bridget Wayman
Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste

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Purpose of Report

1. To consider the comments received following the formal advertisement of speed limit changes associated with the request for a 20 mph speed limit in Bradford on Avon North and South, and to recommend an appropriate way forward.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

2. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) meets two of the priorities in the Council's Business Plan.
 - Outcome 2 – People in Wiltshire work together to solve problems locally and participate in decisions that affect them.
 - Outcome 6 – People are as protected from harm as possible and feel safe.

Background

3. The Department for Transport published revised guidance on the setting of speed limits in 2013. This included a substantial revision to the department's stance and guidance on the use of 20 mph Speed Limits and 20 mph Zones. As a consequence of the revised guidance, Wiltshire Council developed its own policy covering the use of 20 mph Speed Limits and 20 mph Zones to ensure clarity and consistency of approach. The policy was approved under decision reference HSB-007-13.
4. The policy also set out the process by which future requests for these types of speed limit should be managed. The policy set out that requests for the introduction of 20 mph restrictions are managed and prioritised by each of the Community Area Transport Groups (CATGs) on an annual basis.
5. Following the adoption of the policy, each of the eighteen community areas were provided the opportunity to submit locations for initial assessment. Bradford on Avon CATG considered a number of requests across the community area from town and parish councils and agreed to progress two areas within Bradford on Avon for further investigation.
6. The subsequent assessment identified that 20 mph speed limits in accordance with the Council's adopted Policy, and which would achieve an acceptable level of compliance, would be appropriate for a number of roads in Bradford on Avon. The assessment recommendations were considered by both the CATG and the Town Council, and supported by both.

7. Prior to the formal Traffic Order advertisement the Town Council distributed a leaflet to all residents of the town setting out its support for 20 mph speed limits and including copies of the proposals plans. A copy of the leaflet is included at **Appendix 1**.

Summary of Proposals

8. The supporting TROs were formally advertised for comment on 3 March 2017. The Council's closing date for receipt of objections or other representations, together with the grounds on which they were made, was 27 March 2017.

Summary of Responses

9. During the advertisement period a total of 44 matters of comment were received. Many of the comments received include points both in support and in objection to the advertised proposals and for this reason it is not possible to clearly quantify the totals of each type of comment. A full summary of the responses received, together with officer responses, where considered appropriate, is included at **Appendix 2**. Details of the commentator are provided in **Appendix 3**.

Main Considerations for the Council

Substantive comment - Extent of proposals

10. The Council's policy on 20 mph restrictions sets out that 20 mph speed limits can be considered where:
- Mean before speeds are at or below 24 mph (if they are just above this threshold lighter touch engineering measures to reduce speed may be implemented).
 - Roads do not have a strategic function or where motor vehicle movement is not the primary function.
 - On major streets there are significant numbers of pedestrian or bicycle journeys that are considered to outweigh the disadvantage of longer journeys for motorists.
 - In rural areas the location, in addition to the above conditions, meets the definition of a village as set out in Traffic Advisory Leaflet "01/04 – Village Speed Limits".
11. With reference to the criteria the extent of the initial areas for investigation was discussed and agreed with the Town Council's 20 mph Working Group. Clearly a blanket approach to a town wide 20 mph speed limit, as requested by some of the commenters, cannot be considered to meet the above criteria and has therefore not been taken forward.
12. Many of the comments received relating to the extent of the advertised proposals and the other criteria considered are best answered by reference to the report prepared setting out the results of the Initial Assessment. A copy of this report is therefore included at **Appendix 4**.
13. It was agreed with the Working Group that the advertised proposals would be a first phase in the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in Bradford on Avon and that further phases may be possible in the future. It is proposed to monitor the impact of the 20 mph speed limits and use this data to inform where limits of this level perform best and to which other areas of the town they are suited.

Safeguarding Implications

14. There is no risk to the Council as a result of these proposals.

Public Health Implications

15. Any achieved reduction in vehicle speed may be considered to have the benefit of reducing air borne pollution and improving air quality.

Corporate Procurement Implications

16. There are none with this proposal.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

17. The installation of speed limit signs and posts, particularly repeater signs where none previously existed, together with road markings and coloured surfacing could be considered detrimental to the visual vista and street scene.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

18. There are none with this proposal.

Risk Assessment

19. If schemes, programmed for design or delivery within the current financial year, are not progressed the Council risks the potential of delayed delivery in subsequent years due to other funding demands and uncertainty of future budget.

Financial Implications

20. The on ground speed limit changes will be funded from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport allocation. Failure to proceed with the project may leave funding unallocated and subject to underspend within the current financial year.

Legal Implications

21. There are none with this proposal

Options Considered

22. To:
- (i) Implement the advertised changes.
 - (ii) Abandon the proposals and retain the existing restriction.

Reason for Proposals

23. The proposals have been assessed and are in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department for Transport, Circular 01/13 'Setting Local Speed Limits', and Wiltshire Council's own adopted policy for 20 mph restrictions.

Proposals

24. That:

- (iii) The proposals be implemented as advertised.
- (iv) The objectors be informed accordingly.

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report:

None