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HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT SERVICES

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REFERENCE: HSB-004-13

SPEED LIMIT REVIEW
BATCH 24 A3098 DILTON MARSH / A350 WEST ASHTON
A350 UPTON SCUDAMORE / B3414 WARMINSTER

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the comments received following the advertisement of the Traffic Regulation Orders associated with the speed limits proposed within Batch 24 following the review of A and B class roads.

Background

2. In October 2009 the Department for Transport Circular 01/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits' was adopted as the basis for the Council's speed limit strategy. The Circular requested that all Highway Authorities complete an assessment of existing speed limits on their A and B class roads and implement any amendments by 2011. The purpose of the review is to ensure a consistent approach to the setting of speed limits nationwide and to improve respect and adherence to speed limits.
3. The review of Wiltshire's A and B class roads was undertaken using the methodology set out in Circular 01/06 and its supporting documents and involved a comprehensive data collection and analysis process. The initial results of the review were extensively discussed with the Police prior to the final results being disseminated to Town and Parish Councils.
4. Town and Parish Councils were invited to comment on the recommendations of the review and were given the opportunity to put forward their case, should they wish to see a different result from that proposed by the review. All the review recommendations, together with background information, were made available on the Council's website. The Town and Parish Councils were requested to put forward their comments in terms of the criteria set out in Circular 01/06 to enable a review of their case.
5. Following the initial consultation period a number of the affected Town and Parish Councils commented on the proposals. Those which responded are outlined in the following table:

Town / Parish Council	Response
Upton Scudamore Parish Council	No response received.
Warminster Town Council	Response received objecting to proposal.
West Ashton Parish Council	Response received objecting to proposal.
Dillton Marsh Parish Council	No response received

Following the comments received from Warminster Town Council and West Ashton Parish Council, a request was made to provide further detailed reasons as to why its suggestion should be considered. This was duly received from West Ashton Parish

Council and the comments were outlined in a Cabinet Member Report (Reference HT-035-10 Appendix G). No further response was received from Warminster Town Council.

6. The project has now progressed to the implementation of the changes. The process in which the review's recommendations are being implemented has been outlined in detail in the Cabinet Member Report (Reference HT-043-11). In summary, the individual proposals have been collated together into batches, which in turn have been prioritised based upon the rate of collisions resulting in personal injury.
7. The Traffic Regulation Orders, associated with the proposed changes included within Batch 24, have recently been advertised. This batch includes the following proposals:

Description	Existing Restriction	Proposed Restriction
A3098 TOWER HILL TO 40 MPH WESTBURY LEIGH	30 mph	40 mph
A350 WEST ASTON (Part)	50 mph	40 mph
A350 UPTON SCUDAMORE (Part – North)	50 mph	National Speed Limit
A350 UPTON SCUDAMORE (Part – South)	50 mph	National Speed Limit
B3414 WARMINSTER	National Speed Limit	50 mph

8. During the advertisement period for the Traffic Regulation Order, a total of ten comments have been received.
 - Four of these relate to the proposal for the B3414 Warminster, three of which have been taken as objection, with one of support from Warminster Town Council.
 - Two comments relate to the proposals for the A350 Upton Scudamore, both of which are objection to the proposal; these have been received from the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council Member.
 - Two comments have been received for the proposal at A350 West Ashton. This includes a letter of support from the Parish Council and an objection from the Wiltshire Council Member; however, this objection related to some technical issues within the proposed Traffic Regulation Orders. These issues have been resolved and amended.
 - One letter of objection has been received for the proposal at A3098 Dilton Marsh; this is from the Parish Council.

A further letter of objection has been received from Bishopstrow Parish Council; however, this did not relate to any of the advertised proposal.

9. In January 2013, the Department for Transport published revised guidance on the setting of speed limits in the form of Circular 01/013: 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. This revised guidance supersedes the previous advice given to local authorities in Circular 01/06. Following the publication of Circular 01/13, the advertised proposals have been reviewed in line with the latest guidance and are considered to accord with the information provided within Circular 01/13.

Main Considerations for the Council

10. To consider the comments received during the consultation period. A summary of the issues raised and officer comments are included in **Appendix 1**. Details of those who commented are provided in **Appendix 2**.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

11. 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

12. There are none with this proposal.

Risk Assessment

13. 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

14. There is an allocation in the 2013-14 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integrated Transport budget for design, construction, supervision and monitoring works.
15. If a decision is taken to delay current proposals this may result in the loss of the budget.

Legal Implications

16. None.

Options Considered

17. To:
 - (i) Implement all the proposals as advertised.
 - (ii) Amend all the proposals in accordance with the comments received.
 - (iii) Implement the proposals as advertised unless specified in the officer comments outlined in **Appendix 1**.
 - (iv) Abandon the proposals.

Reason for Proposals

18. 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'.

Proposals

19. That:

- (i) The proposals as advertised, unless specified in the officer comments outlined in **Appendix 1**, be implemented.
- (ii) The objectors be informed accordingly.

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

None