

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2012

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: SPEED LIMIT REVIEW

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To inform Members of the conclusions of the speed limit review covering the 'A class' and 'B class' road network within the Authority.
- 1.02 To recommend that Members endorse the changes to the speed limits identified in the review, as listed in Appendix B.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 The Welsh Assembly Government published in 2009 the document entitled 'Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales' (WAG Circular 24/2009), which replaced the previous recommendations as set out in Circular Roads 1/93 (DfT/WO 1993).
- 2.02 The new guidance is to be used for setting all local speed limits on single and dual carriageways in both urban and rural areas.
- 2.03 All highway authorities were requested to review, in accordance with this guidance, the speed limits of all of their A and B roads, and implement any changes by 31st December 2014.
- 2.04 This guidance confirmed that highway authorities continue to have the flexibility to set local speed limits that are right for individual roads, reflecting local needs and considerations.
- 2.05 Following a decision taken at Executive on 15th November 2011, suitable specialist advisors were invited to tender for the review, and in March 2012, Atkins were awarded the contract.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Atkins undertook a video survey of the whole of the 'A' and 'B' class road network, and made recommendations following the assessment of 127 separate sections of the network. A full copy of the assessment report is available in the Members Library.

- 3.02 The individual sections were classified with regard to any recommended changes as follows:
- Green – no change recommended
Amber – consideration to be given for change
Red – changes recommended
- 3.03 There were 14 red sections, and 24 amber sections which were then subject to further consideration and challenge by officers from the Authority. These details are included in Appendix A, which include comments by officers.
- 3.04 Following the detailed analysis of the information in Appendix A, a schedule of the sections identified for a proposed change in speed limits is included in Appendix B.
- 3.05 Plans showing the extent of the proposed changes will be provided on a section basis.
- 3.06 Any approved changes will require the support of North Wales Police, and also be subject to full statutory consultation to meet the statutory procedure for introducing Traffic Regulations Orders (TRO). Some changes may be made to the current proposals after this period of consultation.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny note the recommendations of the report and support the identified changes in speed limits.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.00 The estimated cost of implementing Appendix B is approximately £275k for the A roads, and £180k for the B roads, a total of £455k. Funding for the work will be met from the Local Government Borrowing Initiative and a specific amount within existing Highway revenue budget.

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

- 6.01 No identified impact.

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.01 The reduced speed limits will lessen the risk of collisions on the road network, and thus improve safety for all road users.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 None

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.01 None

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

10.01 Each change in speed limit proposed will require to follow the statutory procedures regarding advertising.

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 Each Local Member and Town/Community Council were provided with a link to the new speed limit guidance when published.

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 Appendix A – Identified red and amber sections
Appendix B – Schedule of proposed changes

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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