

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** **WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2013**

**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.

### **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 their A and B roads, and implement any changes by 31<sup>st</sup> 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 the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011, suitable specialist advisors were invited to tender for the review, and in March 2012, Atkins were awarded the contract.

2.06 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.

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 The initial proposals were presented to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012.

3.02 The decision of the Committee was that further consultation be

undertaken, and details of the proposals were forwarded to all Local Members and Town/Community Councils, requesting their comments by the end of February 2013.

- 3.03 The feedback from the consultation is included on the spreadsheets in Appendix A, together with the response from officers with regard to the requests and comments received. A total of 30 responses were received from Town and Community Councils and County Members with a further 7 from local individuals or community groups. Plans are also available showing the extent of the 38 proposed changes, and are included in Appendix B.
- 3.04 In the cases where speed limit amendments have been requested by Town and Community Councils or Local County Members, Officers have undertaken a further level of challenge and in some cases site visits. In many of these cases reduced speed limits are now being recommended, albeit they may not be the reductions sought.
- 3.05 The proposed changes cannot all be undertaken at the same time and some form of criteria must be applied in order to assist prioritisation. It is suggested that the following suggested criteria is used:
- Road traffic collision history
  - Traffic speed data, including information from the speed camera partnership
  - A review of the layout and configuration of the road, to identify other safety measures that could be introduced.
  - Recommendations provided by the North Wales Police, through statistical information on routes with the highest casualty rates.
- 3.06 Any approved changes will require the support of the North Wales Police, and will also be subject to full statutory consultation to meet the requirements of the procedures for introducing Traffic Regulation Orders. Some changes to the current proposals may be made at that time.

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01 That Members comment upon the proposals set out in Appendix A.

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01 The estimated cost of implementing the changes is approximately £122K for the A roads, £88K for the B roads, a total of £210K.

#### **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 No identified impact.

## **9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 No identified impact.

## **10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Each proposed change in speed limit will need to follow the national statutory procedures applicable, including public advertisement.

## **11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 Each Local Member and all Town/Community Councils were provided both with a link to the new speed limit guidance when published, together with the initial recommendations resulting from the Atkins report.

## **12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix A – Schedule of road sections, and proposals regarding any changes

12.02 Appendix B - Plans detailing proposed changes.

These documents can be found on the website and in the Members Library.

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

Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales

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