

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**
DATE: **TUESDAY 16TH JULY 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, and seek support and endorsement for the implementation of the remedial measures set out within the documentation.

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 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 the 15th 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 21st November, 2012 and

Wednesday 26th June 2013.

- 3.02 The decision of the Committee on the 21st November 2013, 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. The results and outcome of this consultation were shared with Scrutiny at the meeting in June 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 During the Environment Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on the 26th June 2013 a number of Members asked for further clarification on a small number of routes within their specific Wards. Officers are currently reviewing the issues raised.
- 3.05 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.
- 3.06 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 criteria is used:
- Road traffic collision history
 - 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.

The proposed phasing of the works is set out in Appendix D. The precise start and finish times for Phases 1 and 2 will be dependent upon the time frame to acquire the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders and then implement the proposals. It is anticipated that both phases will be complete by the Summer of 2015.

- 3.07 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 (TROs). Some changes to the current proposals may be made at that time.

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.01 That Members support and endorse the proposals set out in Appendix A.

4.02 That the Director, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, reviews comments raised by Members and is given authority to make amendments where it is deemed appropriate to do so.

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.

- 12.03 Appendix C - Draft minute for Speed Limit Review from Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 26th June 2013. (attached)
- 12.04 Appendix D – Programme of Works Matrix. (attached)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales

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