

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **CABINET**

DATE: **TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2015**

REPORT BY: **CHIEF OFFICER (STREETSCENE AND
TRANSPORTATION)**

SUBJECT: **SPEED LIMIT REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.01 To provide Cabinet with details on the progress made on the County wide Speed Limit Review for the classified (A and B) road network
- 1.02 To seek approval from Cabinet to a revised programme to complete the project.

2.00 BACKGROUND

- 2.01 In 2009, Welsh Government published a new guidance note "Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales" providing advice on the speed limits for single and dual carriageways in both rural and urban areas, with a request that all local authority's review the speed limits on all of their A and B road network. It was recommended that any proposed changes required as a result of the review should be implemented by the 31st December 2014.
- 2.02 A report was approved by Cabinet July 2013 detailing the outcome of the review which had been carried out on the Flintshire classified road network and included schedules and plans of those sections of roads where a change in the speed limit was necessary. The proposals included a programme to complete the associated orders and implement the revised speed limits within a two year period.
- 2.03 The cost of carrying out the works was estimated to be £210k and a bid for funding was to be submitted for consideration from the WG Prudential Borrowing Initiative (PBI)

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 Progress on the project has been slower than expected, due to various reasons, including:
 - The complexity of preparing the new orders, especially where they integrated with existing side street speed limit orders

- Dealing with the objections against the orders received during the consultation period, which require additional time to resolve
 - Low staff resources, both within the Traffic Section and the Legal Section of the Council who have historically produced the legal orders required to implement the speed limits
- 3.02 Of the 37 sites identified as requiring a change to the existing speed limit order (**Appendix 1**) –
- 5 have been completed
 - 7 are committed and will be completed within the next three months
 - 25 have yet to be ordered and advertised
- 3.03 Based on the progress made to-date, the final delivery of the project is expected to be well after the expected completion date required by WG in the guidance note and it is now necessary to develop a new programme and method of delivery in order to complete the work at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 3.04 In order to expedite the work it is proposed that the Council engage an Agency engineer who is capable of designing the new speed limits, creating the legal orders and arranging the necessary consultation process. This arrangement has historically been carried out by two teams within the Council, i.e. the scheme design has been carried out by Traffic teams and the legal order processed by the Legal team. This has created further delays and the twin track arrangements reduces ownership of the project. There are no members of staff within the Streetscene and Transportation portfolio with the skill sets to allow them to undertake both elements of the speed limit orders.
- 3.05 It is expected that the Agency engineer will be capable of progressing the outstanding schemes to completion within 6 months and therefore the revised completion date will be 30th November 2015.
- 3.06 The estimate costs of completing the remaining routes is £180k (advertising and construction works) and the cost of engaging the Agency engineer for the period of the project is approximately £30k.
- 3.07 The Welsh Government PBI scheme is no longer available and all of the available funding has been utilised for other highway improvement schemes across Flintshire. The costs of completing the speed limit review will therefore be met from the Streetscene and Transportation budget and an in-year budget pressure will be created as a result
- 3.08 The revised programme will follow the prioritised list also shown in **Appendix 1**.

- 3.09 Progress against the new timetable will be monitored monthly by the Cabinet member for Environment and a verbal update on progress will be presented to Informal Cabinet at the half way point of the project (i.e. after three months)

4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.01 That Cabinet approves the revised completion date for the project and the engagement of the Agency Engineer to carry out the work required to deliver the speed limit review within the revised timescale.

5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.01 The total cost for completing the speed limit review is £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 will improve the road safety for all road users.

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.01 No identified impact overall. Each scheme will be reviewed and assessed to ensure that there is no disproportional and detrimental impact against any group of individuals

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.01 Agency Engineer required for a period of six months to carry out the work.

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

- 10.01 Each proposed change in speed limit will need to follow the national statutory consultation procedures applicable, and receive Police support.

- 10.02 Each Local Member will be consulted as part of the process

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

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

11.02 Environment Overview and Scrutiny considered the new programme in June 2015 and recommended approval to Cabinet

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 **Appendix 1** – Original schedule and progress report

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Contact Officer: Stephen Jones

Telephone: 01352 704700

Email: stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk