

## ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

<b>Date Of Meeting</b>	Tuesday 19 September 2017
<b>Report Subject</b>	Update On The Council's Highway Speed Limit Review
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Streetscene and Transportation)
<b>Type Of Report</b>	Strategic

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A report to Cabinet in September 2016 provided details and timelines for a proposed review of all of the Council's Highway Speed Limits. This report provides Scrutiny with an update on progress to address the historic anomalies within existing speed limit orders and details on the next stage of the process which will enable delivery of a single consolidated order, covering the entire Highway Network.

The report also seeks to update Scrutiny on the outcome of individual Member requests for revised speed limits in their wards, which have been submitted as part of this process and clarifies the Department of Economy and Transport (DfET) "Setting Local Speed Limits in Wales" national criteria against which all requests have been considered.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	That Scrutiny note the progress made on the Speed Limit Review and the legal process required to enable the delivery of a single consolidated Order.
2.	That Scrutiny notes the outcome of the assessments of Member requests for individual speed limit amendments, which have been considered against the speed limit guidance produced by the DfET.

### REPORT DETAILS

<b>1.00</b>	<b>PROGRESS ON DELIVERING THE REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS ON ALL PUBLIC HIGHWAYS</b>
1.01	Following an initial report to Cabinet in September 2016, Streetscene and Transportation committed to undertake a review to address historic inconsistencies associated with the Authority's speed limit orders and

	<p>ensure all Orders, both past and present, were reviewed, corrected (if necessary) and then maintained within a single controlled environment. It was intended that the Council should progress to a single consolidated speed limit Order, which would ensure confidence in both the appropriateness and legality of all speed limit Orders in the County.</p>
1.02	<p>In the months that have proceeded the report, a number of key actions have been undertaken for which the following update is provided.</p>
1.03	<p>In order to eliminate the over reliance on Legal Services, Streetscene and Transportation Officers have developed a system of templates which has enabled standardisation of the Order writing process for any given eventuality. Adoption of this revised process has streamlined the previous over complicated process, reducing the level of staffing resource requirement for the function.</p>
1.04	<p>In line with the process described within the initial report, a mapping exercise has now been completed, accurately recording the position of all existing speed limits (as they are displayed on site). This information has subsequently been uploaded on to an electronic map based system and it will play a key role in moving away from the archaic written Order process, allowing the Authority's speed limits to be both viewed and advertised within a simple and easy to understand map based format.</p>
1.05	<p>Streetscene Area Coordinators contacted all Local Members to discuss speed limit concerns within their own wards and as a result, over 100 requests for speed limit reviews were received. Technical Officers then conducted an assessment of each request, to ascertain if a change to the existing speed limit would be supported by the DfET criteria.</p> <p>A full list of all of the speed limit concerns raised by Members (and the outcome of the technical assessments) are detailed in <b>Appendix 1</b> and for the purposes of clarity, a copy of the DfET criteria has also been included within <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>
1.06	<p>Once the single consolidated Order is in place, a commitment was also given to review all existing speed limits within the County to ensure compliance with the DfET criteria. The review would be completed over a 5 year period (as stated within the initial report) however this process has been accelerated by the Member requests for their individual concerns regarding speed limits on specific roads, as reviews of these sections of the network have now been undertaken.</p>
1.07	<p>It was recognised within the previous report that inaccuracies existed within some of the current speed limit Orders, due to changes to the highway network and the loss of key highway features (e.g. bridges), which were used to locate the start and end of some of the original Orders.</p> <p>In order to progress the necessary rectification work, it is proposed to advertise all of the existing speed limits (as recorded within the survey detailed in item 1.04) within a single Order which would cover the entire network and at the same time revoke all of the existing speed limit Orders in place in the County (except those covered by Phase 1 of the speed limit review).</p>

	Any speed limits amendments, highlighted by Members and subsequently changed within the DfET criteria will also be included within this Order and the benefits of advertising these amendments together within the single Order will enable the Authority to demonstrate both a consistent and transparent approach to the process.
1.09	Once this process is completed, the single Order can then be consolidated with the previous Phase 1 speed limit Orders (which were completed in November of last year) and the Council would then hold a single consolidated and compliant Order covering all of the speed limits on all of the highway network across the County.
1.10	It is anticipated that the Order will be advertised during week commencing 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2017 for a statutory period of 21 days with a view to advertising the consolidation in March 2018. The County wide review of the individual speed limits will commence thereafter, with any revisions being made via an amendment to the main consolidation Order.
1.11	In relation to advertising via the use of a modern map based schedule (rather than the historic method of written schedules described within item 1.04), Officers are mindful that the forthcoming advertisement of proposals must be both clear and reasonable when considering the requirements of the statutory consultation procedure. To facilitate this, it is proposed that all speed limits will be displayed within an easy to understand Map Reference Book, separated by area with a clear indexing system thus enabling members of the public to easily locate individual areas of interest within the County.
1.12	Reasonable access to the proposals must also be provided and therefore, the above map reference books will be on deposit for public viewing at all major libraries in the County, County Hall Mold, Alltami Depot as well as being available on Flintshire County Council's website.

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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2.01	No resource implications identified. All of the works are being undertaken by staff and resources within the Streetscene & Transportation portfolio.
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT</b>
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3.01	With Cabinet Member.
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3.02	Consultation undertaken with Local Members to compile list of requested speed limits within their ward which they requested to be reviewed.
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3.03	Statutory consultation required for purposes of advertising singular Order.
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<b>4.00</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
4.01	Given the scale associated with this process, it is likely that objections will be received. Valid objections (that cannot be overruled) will be addressed via re-advertisement of the amended proposal. Those speed limits that do not receive challenge will not be open to further objection.
4.02	The Authority is at risk of legal challenge against both existing and future speed limits if the process is not validated. It will also fail in its statutory duty of care in relation to road safety in the event that speed limits are not enforceable.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	Appendix 1 – Matrix Assessment detailing Local Member speed limit requests.
5.02	Appendix 2– Department for Transport Speed Limit Criteria

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Stephen O Jones <b>Telephone:</b> 01352 704700 <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk">stephen.o.jones@flintshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>7.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
7.01	Singular Order: The advertisement of all existing speed limits in the County (excluding those completed within Phase 1 Speed limit Review) to enable progression of a Consolidated Order.  Department of Economy and Transport