

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 8 November 2018

Report of the Head of Service, Highways

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
Ormskirk; West Lancashire
West;

Road Traffic Regulation ACT 1984 Lancashire County Council (County Road, High Lane and Holborn Hill, Ormskirk, Liverpool Road and Northway, Aughton, West Lancashire Borough) (Revocations, 40mph Speed Limit and Derestriction) Order 201*

(Appendices 'A' - 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:

Chris Nolan, Tel: (01772) 531141, Highways Regulation - Community Services,
chris.nolan@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report sets out proposals to reduce the existing 40mph speed limit on lengths of County Road and High Lane to 30mph by removing the present restrictions on these lengths of road so that they become restricted roads by virtue of the street lighting and subject to a 30mph speed limit.

A proposal has been advertised and public consultation has taken place which generated a large number of representations and one objection. It is considered that in order to implement the proposal effectively, it will be necessary to make changes to the road layout predominantly through new traffic signing and road marking.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the proposals as advertised and to authorise officers to make changes to the road layout necessary to implement a scheme as set out in Appendix 'C'.

Background and Advice

Following a number of collisions along the length of County Road between its junction with A570 Southport Road and Burscough Road, officers have undertaken a

review of the speed limit. In carrying out this review, existing traffic regulation orders and prospective developments along and immediately adjacent to the review length have been taken into consideration along with recommendations regarding the minimum lengths of individual speed limit orders.

For this reason a proposed scheme has been developed which would introduce a 30mph limit from a point 256 metres north of the current 40mph and 60mph speed limit change by revoking part of the present derestriction order on High Lane. That limit would extend to a point 200 metres south west of the 'Fiveways' junction (the junction of A59 County Road and A570 Southport Road) which has been identified as a suitable point for a 30mph limit to be effective at that junction as illustrated in Appendices 'A' and 'B'.

Investigation of existing orders has identified an anomaly in the speed limit restrictions covering the A570 Southport Road. As these are contiguous with this proposal the proposed order has been drawn up to rectify this which will have no effect on the signed speed limits but will ensure that any enforcement is simplified.

In order to encourage compliance with the proposed lower speed limit, it is considered that it will be necessary to provide additional road signs and to make changes to the road layout by the use of road markings.

Consultations

Liaison with Lancashire Constabulary prior to formal consultation identified that if a 30mph speed limit was to be introduced it should cover the four junctions on County Road (Southport Road, Hayfield Road, Yew Tree Road and Burscough Road) with the poorest collision records.

Formal consultation was carried out between 15 August 2018 and 12 September 2018 by an advertisement in the local press. Over the same period notices were posted on site, the local county councillor and the borough and parish councils were consulted along with the county council's usual consultees for speed limit change proposals.

A large number of comments predominantly in favour of the proposal have been received. One objection to the change in the speed limit has been received. Many respondents expressed concerns as to whether the proposal alone would be sufficient to address the present problems.

Two petitions were received requesting red-light camera enforcement to be carried out.

Other requests included; Improvements to the traffic signals for better visibility; an extension of the proposed, lowered speed limit to the roundabout at the junction of County Road with Holborn Hill and changes to parking restrictions that may assist with slowing the speed of traffic.

One of the divisional county councillors expressed support for the changes but asked if other measures could be undertaken such as better enforcement of the double

yellow lines in the area and the introduction of a mini roundabout at the junction of County Road and Yew Tree Road.

Lancashire Constabulary did not object to the proposals but expressed concern that the road layout is changed so that the nature of the road would support compliance with the lower limit as changing the limit alone would not necessarily reduce the speed of drivers and enforcement may be difficult in this area.

Objection

The objector to the proposal did not want the speed limit to be changed but asked for measures to be introduced to reduce the number of incidents of drivers "running red lights".

Officers Comments

All of the responses are requesting changes to the road in an attempt to improve safety. The single objection to reducing the speed limit requested improvements to the road layout including the use of red light cameras so as to ensure better observance of the present provision. These comments are in line with a large number of supporters who requested further measures in addition to the reduction in the speed limit.

Lancashire Constabulary is the enforcement authority for offences involving the contravention of traffic signals. Presently there are no red light running cameras operating in Lancashire. Lancashire's recent Safer Roads Fund allocation from the Department for Transport provides for the possible introduction of red light cameras on a section of the A6 in Lancaster. The outcome of this project would be used to guide the potential future rollout to other sites in Lancashire where there is concern over red light running.

Improvements to traffic signals will be kept under review and opportunities taken to upgrade them when this can be justified as part of future transport and maintenance plans.

Consideration has been given to the requests to extend the speed limit to include the roundabout junction with Holborn Hill. Speed limits should be set at an appropriate level to achieve a significant degree of self-enforcement so that the speed limit is respected by the majority of drivers.

The nature of the A59 south of the Fiveways Junction is significantly different to the section of County Road north of the junction towards High Lane. To the South west of the Fiveways junction there are significantly fewer properties fronting on to the A59 County Road and Holborn Hill the accident record is half of that to the north of the junction.

If the speed limit proposal is approved, it is proposed to make changes to the road layout for the reasons stated earlier in this report. The works would include 'gateway' features at the points where the new speed limit commences and a new road layout to narrow the available carriageway widths using road markings.

The costs of this work is estimated at £31,000. A potential source of funding has been identified from a prospective road safety scheme at the A59 County Road/A570 Southport Road Junction which following local consultation is proposed to be abandoned. It is proposed that the funding released by this be utilised for the works outlined in this report.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial

The estimated cost of the works can be met from a current allocation for a scheme at the A59 County Road/A570 Southport Road Junction (PPMS ID 4949) which is no longer planned to go ahead.

Risk management

The collision record at the junctions of A59 County Road with Southport Road (Fiveways), Green Lane, Yew Tree Road and Burscough Road indicate that there is problems with safety on this road. Implementing this proposal has the potential to improve the collision record.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A