

**Report to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**  
**Report submitted by: Executive Director for Environment**  
**Date: 27 February 2013**

**Part I**

Electoral Divisions affected:  
Preston City and Preston  
North West

**Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Order in the Ashton area of Preston**  
(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:  
Eric Grubb, 01772 536758, Environment Directorate,  
[eric.grubb@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:eric.grubb@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Executive Summary**

Approval is sought for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit order in the Ashton area of Preston.

This is a Key Decision. Standing Order 26 has been complied with.

**Recommendation**

That approval is given for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit order in the streets as set out in the report, in the schedule attached at Appendix 'A' and shown on the attached plan (Appendix 'B').

**Background and Advice**

The Local Transport Plan 2011/21 identifies investment in the safety of our children and young people to reduce the numbers involved in accidents on our streets, particularly in our disadvantaged communities, as amongst the top priorities of the Plan. The roll out of 20mph schemes across residential areas in Lancashire where these speed reduction measures can be accommodated and where they are consistent with the free movement of the highway network is a key proposal within the Plan.

It is proposed to create a 20mph speed limit in the Ashton area of Preston. A schedule setting out those streets that would be subject to the proposed 20mph limit is attached at Appendix 'A' and is also shown on the attached plan (Appendix 'B').

The proposal was advertised between 4 May and 15 June 2012.

## **Consultations**

Preston City Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Ambulance Service, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Local Cycling Representatives and Local Members were consulted and have no objections to the proposal. Emails have been received from the County Councillors for Preston City and Preston North West, which whilst offering support for 20mph speed limits in residential areas, raise some concerns as set out below:

- 1) The County Councillor for Preston North West supports the scheme but has requested that consideration be given to painting road markings (similar to those on Lovat Road) on Wellington Road and Poulton Street to alert drivers of the need to give way to the side roads.
- 2) The County Councillor for Preston City supports the scheme but raises concerns over the effectiveness of the scheme and has requested additional markings on the highway to make drivers more aware of the 20mph speed limits. The County Councillor has also raised concerns over effective enforcement of the 20mph speed limits.

## **County Council responses**

- 1) In terms of the suggested lining on Wellington Road and Poulton Street, to highlight changed priorities is considered more likely to cause accidents, than prevent them. The provision of lining without substantial illuminated signing and kerb build outs would cause a substantial hazard to local drivers.
- 2) The County Councillor for Preston North West has been informed that once constructed, the 20mph speed limits will be legally enforceable and Lancashire Constabulary will take enforcement action if deemed necessary. The County Council proposes to enforce 20mph speed limits by sign only, however following the introduction of the revised speed limits, if reports are received of speeding vehicles on particular roads, traffic surveys will be undertaken to verify and quantify the scale of the problem.

If problems are identified, a range of additional interventions are available to heighten the awareness of drivers. These include the placement of 'Smiley face interactive road signs' (SpiDS), engagement and publicity activities with local schools and or community groups and restorative justice type activities with Lancashire Constabulary. If traffic is still found to be travelling at inappropriate speeds after this course of action, then carriageway roundels may be considered.

## **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

Although there can be no guarantee that all vehicles will travel at or below 20mph, it is anticipated that a reduction in the speed limit would influence the speed of the majority of vehicles and enhance road safety.

The 20mph speed limit programme is sign only and in order to embed the principle of driving at no more than 20mph in residential areas and outside all schools as normal behaviour a multi-agency approach is required to engage with communities through a range of activities, including:

- Undertaking speed surveys
- Liaison with Lancashire Constabulary regarding Community RoadWatch:
  - With the aim of establishing working partnerships between Lancashire Constabulary and local communities to address road safety concerns and reduce road casualties.
  - The Community RoadWatch activity is designated as an educational activity and not as police enforcement.
  - Community RoadWatch primary focuses on drivers exceeding the speed limit but also targets drivers using mobile phones and drivers and passengers failing to wear seat belts and/or child restraints.
- Promotion of 20mph speed limits through school based activities,
- Police and Communities Together (PaCT) meetings,
- Parish Council meetings to understand community concerns and develop responses appropriate to that area,
- Support for the Healthy Streets initiative,
- Liaison with Public Realm Teams regarding the deployment of Speed Indicator Display Signs (SpIDS)
- Lancashire Constabulary will take necessary enforcement action if deemed necessary

### **Financial**

The scheme would be funded from the resources set aside in the Directorate's 2012/13 Capital Programme for 20mph Areas at an estimated cost of £7,000.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Nil.		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.