

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 July 2020

### Report of the Head of Service - Highways

#### Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:  
Chorley Rural East; Chorley  
Rural West;

**Lancashire County Council (Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Cocker Bar Road, Marl Cop, and North Road, Bretherton, Chorley Borough) (Revocation, 30mph, 40mph and 50mph Speed Limits, August 2019) Order 201\***  
(Appendices 'A' to 'D' refer)

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#### Executive Summary

Following investigations and a public consultation, it is proposed to make a Speed Limit Order (SLO) to reduce speed limits on North Road, Marl Cop and Cocker Bar Road, Bretherton along with the introduction of 30mph limit on Horrobin Lane, Rivington in order to improve road safety and to allow for effective enforcement by Lancashire Constabulary. One objection has been received with regard to the proposed changes of the speed limit on Cocker Bar Road.

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 for speed restrictions on various lengths of road within the Chorley District as detailed within this report and as set out in the proposed order (Appendix 'A') the Plans (Appendices 'B' and 'C') in line with the statement of reasons (Appendix 'D').

#### Background and Advice

It is proposed to introduce a 30mph limit on a length of Horrobin Lane from its junction with New Road to the commencement of the existing 20mph speed limit within the village centre and close to the primary school. Presently this length of road is derestricted and potentially could attract speeds of up to the national limit of

60mph. The proposal ensures that speeds are reduced along a length of road, prior to entering the length of 20mph limit, which is popular parking for sightseers. The length of Horrobin Lane across the Dam Wall is also popular for parent parking whilst dropping off and picking up school children.

It is also proposed to revoke the present 50mph speed limit on North Road and Marl Cop, Bretherton to replace this with a 40mph speed limit. The proposal will also revoke part of the 50mph limit on Cocker Bar Road, Bretherton replacing this with a new 40mph speed limit whilst retaining part of the 50mph limit. Initially the request for a review of the speed limits on North Road, Marl Cop and Cocker Bar Road came from Bretherton Parish Council. This was assessed by the local traffic engineer in conjunction with Lancashire Police before the proposal was worked up and consulted on.

## **Consultations**

Formal consultation was carried out between 26 November 2019 and 24 December 2019 and advertised in the local press. Notices were displayed on site for all areas where new restrictions were proposed. Divisional county councillors were consulted along with the council's usual consultees and the consultation documents posted on the council's website.

## **Objection**

During the consultation period one objection was received from a resident on Cocker Bar Road whose home is on the length of road where the 50mph speed limit would be retained. They contest the decision to start the 40mph limit at the proposed point of 120 metres east of the junction with Marl Cop claiming this should be at a point 280 metres east of the junction with Marl Cop basing their objection on the following points:

1. The 280 metres east of Cocker Bar Road east of the junction with Marl Cop has more homes accessed off the road and that these properties are closer to the road than properties on North Road within 550 meters west of the junction with Marl Cop.
2. That there have been three incidents on the length of road 280 meters east of the junction with Marl Cop where speeding vehicles have left the road and ended up in residents front gardens.
3. The reduction of the speed limit does not extend to include the junction of Moss Lane with Cocker Bar Road as this road, though not a through road, does serve three residential properties and a farm, where the farm is often visited by larger vehicles.

As the decision of where the speed limit should alter from 50mph down to 40mph was taken in partnership with the police, the objectors have asked for the full report of the decision taken by the police. They question if the police assessment was completed correctly.

## **Engineer's Response**

The original request to look at the speed limits on North Road, Marl Cop and Cocker Bar Road were received from Bretherton Parish Council. As the implementation of speed limits is completed by the county council, but enforcement of the orders is

undertaken by the police, the proposal was discussed with the Police Liaison Officer for the area as part of the design of the scheme. The police would not support the complete replacement of the present 50mph limit with a 40mph limit as the nature of the road would not support such a change. The police were concerned that imposing an unsuitable 40mph limit may lead to a lack of compliance by drivers.

After checking the road and reviewing the accident data over the previous five years it was agreed that it would be permissible to replace the 50mph speed limit on North Road and Marl Cop with a 40mph limit but officers felt that the nature of Cocker Bar Road did not support the changes, although agreement was reached to propose a change of the speed limit to 40mph on Cocker Bar Road for 120 metres at the approach to the cross road junction with Marl Cop, North Road and Doles Lane.

The decision to choose the point 120 metres east of the junction with Marl Cop was based on the following factors:

1. At a position on the road where there is a perceived change in the nature of the road. This does in part depend on the number of properties fronting on to the road but also includes the geometry of the road, the junctions of the road and how the road is seen by the driver. The actual number of properties fronting on to the road is not the over ruling factor.
2. The recent recorded accident information. Recent is usually regarded as a period of five years. The police have noted five incidents all of which were on North Road west of Marl Cop. It was also noted that of these four of the accidents involved vehicles travelling in a westerly direction.

Cabinet is asked to support this change as set out within the recommendation.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Financial**

The estimated costs of the Speed Limit Orders detailed in this report is £2,000 and will be funded from the 2019/20 Highways revenue budget.

### **Risk management**

Road safety may be compromised should the proposed speed limit reductions not be approved. Should the length of the 40mph speed limit be extended to meet the objector's requests this would be different to the advice given by the police who would then be requested to enforce a regulation that had not been agreed.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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