

Individual Decision

The attached report will be taken as
Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

Monday, 4th October, 2010

Ref:	Title	Portfolio Member(s)	Page No.
ID2150	Queens Road Area, Newbury - Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone	Councillor David Betts	1 - 4



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Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	Queens Road Area, Newbury - Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Zone
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	04 October 2010
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2150

Purpose of Report: To inform the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT of the responses received during the statutory consultation on the proposed 20mph speed limit zone in the Queens Road and Boundary Road area of Newbury.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Highways, Transport (Operational) & ICT resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in Section 4 of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken: To enable the proposed speed limit zone to be introduced.

Statutory: **Non-Statutory:**
Other:

Other options considered:

Key background documentation: Report to the Speed Limit Review - 5th May 2009, Minutes of the Speed Limit Review - 5th May 2009, Individual Decision Report ID 1879.

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor David Betts - Tel (0118) 942 2485
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Contact Officer Details	
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Implications

Policy:	The consultation is in accordance with the Council's Consultation procedures.
Financial:	The implementation of the speed limit zone will be funded from the approved Capital Programme.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal/Procurement:	The sealing of the Traffic Regulation Order will be undertaken by Legal Services.
Environmental:	A reduced speed limit will make a more pleasant environment for local residents.
Partnering:	None arising from this report.
Property:	None arising from this report.
Risk Management:	None arising from this report.
Community Safety:	None arising from this report.
Equalities:	None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:	
Leader of Council:	To date no response has been received from Councillor Graham Jones, however any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting.
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell has no reason to object to the proposal.
Select Committee Chairman:	N/A
Ward Members:	Councillors Roger Hunneman and Gabrielle McGarvey support the proposal.
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Keith Woodhams is pleased to support the proposals.
Local Stakeholders:	N/A
Officers Consulted:	Mark Cole and Mark Edwards
Trade Union:	N/A

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council		<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position		<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months		<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision		<input type="checkbox"/>

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 A request from the Greenham Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) for a 20mph speed limit zone on Queens Road and its adjoining roads was considered by the Speed Limit Task Group, at its meeting in May 2009. The Task Group, which consists of Council officers, Members and the Police agreed to the introduction of a 20mph zone and for it to include Boundary Road.
- 1.2 Queens Road and its adjacent roads are narrow with on street parking. Some lengths of the roads do not have footways. Queens Road is tended to be used as a through route from the A339 to Hambridge Road and the A4. Traffic calming measures in the form of speed cushions are installed on Queens Road. From its junction with Northway, Queens Road becomes One-Way for eastbound traffic.
- 1.3 The statutory consultation and advertisement of the 20mph speed limit zone was undertaken between 15th July and 5th August 2010.

2. Responses to statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the end of the statutory consultation period only one response had been received. This was from a married couple from Stanley Road. Their objections were:
 1. That speeds are already low and if a 20 limit was introduced the road humps should be removed as they cause discomfort when driving.
 2. The no right turn restriction from Livingstone Road into Queens Road should be removed. This restriction was introduced to prevent drivers taking a short cut however it is inconvenient for local residents and means they have to travel a longer distance over congested and speed calmed roads.
- 2.2 For an area to have a speed limit zone it is necessary for there to be physical measures to ensure that the speed limit is self enforcing and to comply with current regulations. Therefore removing the speed cushions is not appropriate.
- 2.3 The removal of the no right turn restriction is not an objection in relation to the advertised speed limit order. Whilst the restriction may inconvenience some local residents it is considered necessary to prevent through traffic.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 Concerns about road safety have been raised by local residents through the Greenham Neighbourhood Action Group.
- 3.2 The response received during the statutory consultation is more about removing the existing traffic calming features rather than an objection to the introduction of a lower speed limit. The removal of the no right turn restriction is not an objection that needs to be considered in relation to the advertised speed limit order
- 3.3 The Speed Limit Task Group considers a number of factors when considering a speed limit. These include the current speed limit, the injury accident record, results of any traffic surveys, the character and nature of the road. Given that the Task Group consider that a 20mph speed limit zone is appropriate it is recommended that the zone is introduced.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 In view of the above it is recommended that the proposed 20mph speed limit zone be introduced as advertised.
- 4.2 That the respondents to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.