

Individual Decision

Title of Report:	30mph Speed limit – Various Roads, Leckhampstead		
Report to be considered by:	Councillor Keith Chopping	on:	30th March 2006
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1130		

Purpose of Report:

To inform the Executive Member for Planning and Highways of the comments received during the statutory consultation on the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit on Shop Lane, Leckhampstead and to seek approval of officer recommendations.

Recommended Action:

That the Executive Member for Planning and Highways resolves to approve the recommendations as set out in this report.

Reason for decision to be taken:

Extension of the speed limit was considered as part of Speed Limit Review 2005.

List of other options considered:

Not to implement the proposed speed limit.

Key background documentation:

- Criteria for speed limits.
- ID1019 report – Speed Limit Review 2005
- Comments received during statutory consultation.
- Plan ref SLR-05-11-001A.

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Supporting Information

1 Background

- 1.1 Shop Lane runs north to south through the village of Leckhampstead and reflects the style of a rural West Berkshire village. The northern section of Shop Lane has frontage development whilst the southern section is bounded by farmland and high hedgerow. The start of the existing 30mph speed limit is located approximately 130 metres north of its junction with Hill Green Lane and the current speed limit signs are partially obscured by dense hedgerow.
- 1.2 As part of the Speed Limit Review for 2005, the Task Group agreed to the recommendation to extend the 30mph speed limit on Shop Lane to its junction with Hill Green Lane as this would improve visibility of the start of the 30mph signs and enable a gateway feature to be introduced.

2 Results of statutory consultation

- 2.1 At the close of the statutory consultation process on 9 March 2006, one response objecting to the proposals had been received. The objection expressed concerns that the extension of the existing 30mph speed limit would lead to further attempts for housing developers to gain planning permission to build on the adjacent farmland at the southern end of Shop Lane. In addition the proposed extension of the 30mph would lead to an increase in sign clutter at a location where the nature of the road dictates traffic speed.

3 Response to the comment received during the statutory consultation

- 3.1 To develop on the adjacent field would require planning permission and the relocation of the 30mph would not assist in any planning application. The relocation of the speed limit would result in the start of the speed limit being clearly visible to drivers and enable a gateway feature to be introduced. It would also require the introduction of one additional speed limit repeater sign to comply with current regulations.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that the proposed 30mph speed limit be extended as advertised and that the respondent to the statutory consultation be informed accordingly.

Appendices

None

Implications

Policy:	None arising from this report.
Financial:	The recommendations will be funded from the Council's Capital Programme.
Personnel:	None arising from this report.
Legal:	The speed limit traffic regulation order will require sealing by Legal and Electoral Services.

Environmental: The proposed changes to the speed limits will improve road safety and therefore provide environmental benefits to local residents

Equalities: None arising from this report.

Partnering: None arising from this report.

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council: Councillor Graham Jones supports the recommendation as long as the ward member has no objection.

Select Committee Chairmen: Councillor Quentin Webb supports the recommendation.

**P&L Committee Chairman
(where appropriate):** N/A

Ward Members: Councillor George Chandler supports the recommendation.

Opposition Spokesperson: Councillor Owen Jeffery is content with the recommended decision providing that the ward member has no objection.

Advisory Members: N/A

Local Stakeholders: Have been consulted as part of the statutory consultation process.

Officers Consulted: Mark Cole and Mark Edwards.

Trade Union: No Trade Union implications.