



## Report to Policy Committee

**Author/Lead Officer of Report:** *(Lisa Blakemore, Senior Transport Planner)*

**Tel:** 07785384192

**Report of:** *Executive director of City Futures*

**Report to:** Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee

**Date of Decision:** *21st September 2022*

**Subject:** *Report objections to the Speed Limit Order for Handsworth 20mph*

|  |     |                                     |    |                                     |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?   | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(488)</i>  |     |                                     |    |                                     |
| Has appropriate consultation taken place?  | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?   | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below: -   |     |                                     |    |                                     |
| <i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i> |     |                                     |    |                                     |

### Purpose of Report:

To report details of the consultation response to proposals to introduce 20mph speed limits in Handsworth, report the receipt of objections to the Speed Limit Order and set out the Council’s response.

**Recommendations:**

Approve that the Handsworth 20mph Speed Limit Order be made, as advertised, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Objectors will then be informed of the decision by the Council's Traffic Regulations team and the order implemented on street subject to no road safety issues being identified through a Road Safety Audit (RSA) at the detailed design stage.

**Background Papers:**

**Appendix A:** consultation letter

**Appendix B:** Proposed scheme boundary

**Appendix C (at the bottom of the report):** consultation responses

| Lead Officer to complete:- |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 1                          | I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.  | Finance: Damien Watkinson                            |
|                            |   | Legal: Richard Cannon                                |
|                            |   | Equalities & Consultation: <i>Annmarie Johnson</i>   |
|                            |   | Climate: Jessica Rick                                |
|                            | <i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>   |  |
| 2                          | <b>SLB member who approved submission:</b>  | <i>Kate Martin</i>                                   |
| 3                          | <b>Committee Chair consulted:</b>   | <i>Mazher Iqbal and Julie Grocutt</i>                |
| 4                          | I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the SLB member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1. |  |
|                            | <b>Lead Officer Name:</b><br><i>Lisa Blakemore</i>  | <b>Job Title:</b><br><i>Senior Transport Planner</i> |
|                            | <b>Date:</b> 23/08/2022   |  |

## 1. PROPOSAL

1.1 In February 2011, Full Council adopted a motion 'To bring forward plans for city-wide 20mph limits on residential roads (excluding main roads)'. This led to the adoption of the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy by the Cabinet Highways Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the long-term aim of which is to establish 20mph as the maximum appropriate speed in residential areas of Sheffield. Each speed limit is indicated by traffic signs and road markings only. They do not include any 'physical' traffic calming measures. To date 23 20mph areas have been completed

1.2 The Strategy was updated on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015, in part to better define how individual roads would be considered suitable for the introduction of a 20mph limit. Broadly speaking, residential roads on which average speeds are 24mph or below will automatically be considered suitable. The inclusion of roads with average speeds of between 24mph and 27mph will be considered on a case-by-case basis using current Department for Transport guidelines. Roads on which the average speed is above 27mph will not be included unless additional capital funding can be identified for appropriate traffic calming measures to help encourage lower speeds.

The Initial Business Case for the introduction of these 20mph speed limits was approved at Transport Board in June 2020.

1.3 This report details the consultation response to the introduction of these 20mph speed limits in the Handsworth area and sets out the Council's response.

1.4 All of Sheffield is split into a "master map" of possible suitable areas for inclusion in a 20mph area. These are prioritised in a list for delivery based on accident statistics.

The programme for the 22/23 financial year is listed below with its current status.

- **Handsworth:** Objections received to Speed limit order, Committee to decide whether to proceed.
- **Manor:** Objections received to Speed limit order, Committee to decide whether to proceed
- **Beighton:** Consultation just finished; objections received so report will be submitted to Committee in November.
- **Deerlands:** Consultation just finished; objections received so report will be submitted to Committee in November

- **Waterthorpe:** Consultation starts 15<sup>th</sup> September
- **Highfield** (part of Sheaf Valley Scheme) Consultation just finished; objections received so report will be submitted to Committee in November.
- **Batemoor:** Consultation starts 15<sup>th</sup> September
- **Burncross:** Consultation just finished; objections received so report will be submitted to Committee in November.
- **Norton Lees:** Consultation starts 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- **Carterknowle:** Consultation starts mid-October
- **Westfield:** Feasibility design work started
- **Herdings:** Feasibility design work started
- **High Green:** Feasibility design work started
- **Fulwood:** Feasibility design work started

## 2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE?

- 2.1 There is a proven relationship between motor vehicle speed and the number and severity of injury collisions. The Department for Transport's 20mph Research Study (November 2018) found that the introduction of sign-only 20mph speed limits did not lead to a significant change in collisions in the short term but concluded that further data is required to determine the long term impact.

Over the longer term it is anticipated that a gradual increase in compliance with the 20mph speed limit will lead to a reduction in collisions, helping to create safer communities.

- 2.2 These schemes represent a step towards influencing driver behaviour and establishing 20mph as the default maximum appropriate speed in residential areas. This will contribute to the delivery of:
- Policy 4 of the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy 2018-2040 (Make our streets healthy places where people feel safe)
  - The Council's Transport Strategy (March 2019) A safer and more sustainable Sheffield (Sustainable safety, safe walking and cycling as standard)
  - the Fairness Commission's recommendation for a 20mph speed limit on all residential roads in Sheffield.

### 3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The intention to introduce each 20mph speed limit has been advertised in the local press, street notices put up throughout each affected area and letters delivered to all affected properties inviting residents to comment on the proposals (see Appendix A). The Cabinet Member for Transport and Development, local Ward Members and statutory consultees have been informed about the proposals.
- 3.2 The Council has a legal responsibility to comply with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996. This states that "*An objection* [to the making of a Traffic Regulation Order] *shall be made in writing*".

All Traffic Order advertisements state that objections can be made by email, as do the notices placed on street.

The Regulations stipulate that "*Any person may object to the making of an order by [...] the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date on which the order making authority [publicises the order].*" However, comments and objections received after the closing date are normally added to the collation of responses and duly considered

#### CONSULTATION REPONSES

There have been 52 responses to the consultation, 2 of these were objections and are detailed in Appendix C below.

Officers have replied to all residents with an acknowledgement or answering specific questions and clarifying the proposals if required so that the residents are fully informed before making formal approvals/ objections to the scheme

Both objectors said that the scheme is unnecessary. Paragraph 2.1 above sets out the reason for reducing the speed limit.

#### OTHER CONSULTEES

South Yorkshire Police have stated "...Looking at the areas concerned we don't have too many concerns. If it becomes apparent that the limits are not self-enforcing or the change results in a significant number of complaints, then we will expect you to consider additional measures to secure a reasonable level of compliance

No response has been received from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service or the Yorkshire Ambulance Service or South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive

Sustrans and Cycle Sheffield support the proposals

#### **4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION**

##### **4.1 Equality Implications**

- 4.1. Overall, there are no significant differential, positive or negative, equalities impacts from this proposal. Safer roads and reduced numbers of accidents involving traffic and pedestrians will fundamentally be positive for all road users, but particularly the young and elderly. No negative equality impacts have been identified.

##### **4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications**

- 4.2.1 The Outline Business case for the Handsworth 20mph scheme was approved by Strategy and Resources Committee in July 2022.

The scheme will be funded by the LTP

The total capital cost of this scheme is £109,869 and is as follows:

£10,868 transport fees (including TRO costs, consultation costs)

£23,000 Amey design fees

Estimated constriction cost £70,000

HMD fees £7140

Procurement strategy cost £750

The estimated commuted sum cost for the scheme's future maintenance (revenue implication) is £30,000

##### **4.3 Legal Implications**

- 4.3.1 The Council is under a duty contained in section 108 of the Transport Act 2000 to develop policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport, and to carry out its functions so as to implement those policies. These policies and the proposals for their implementation together comprise the local transport plan (to which the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy is considered to be pursuant) and the Council must have regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State concerning the content of such plans.

The Department for Transport guidance 'Setting Local Speed Limits' encourages local authorities to consider the introduction of more 20mph speed limits and zones in urban areas that are primarily residential areas to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists. This applies particularly where the streets are being used by people on foot and on bicycles, there is community support and the characteristics of the street are suitable. The guidance recognises that traffic authorities have powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits that apply only at certain times of day where a school is located on a road that is not suitable for a full-time 20

mph limit, and notes that the government has also given local authorities the power to place signs indicating advisory part-time 20mph limits.

The Council as traffic authority has the power to vary speed limits on roads (other than trunk or restricted roads) by making speed limit orders under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (“the 1984 Act”). The procedure in relation to consultation and notification, which is set out in Schedule 9 of the Act and the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, must be followed and proper consideration given to all duly made representations. Those representations are presented for consideration in this report. The Council is empowered to place traffic signs indicating advisory part-time 20mph limits via their inclusion in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (Diagram 545.1).

In exercising the aforementioned powers, the Council is under a duty to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) as per section 122 of the 1984 Act. In doing so the Council must have regard to the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises, the effect on the amenities of any locality affected, any applicable national air quality strategy, the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and any other matters appearing to the local authority to be relevant. The Council is considered to be fulfilling this duty in implementing the proposals in this report.

#### 4.4 Climate Implications

##### 4.4.1 Lower speed limits can reduce air pollution through lower vehicle emissions and also reduce noise.

The provision of 20mph speed limits and zones should have an overall positive effect on road user safety, air quality and reduced impact on the natural and built environment in the county.

The potential for reduced emissions will contribute to the overall resilience to climate change.

#### 4.4 Other Implications

##### 4.4.1 There will be an expectation from residents that, as a consequence of introducing the 20mph speed limit, motor vehicle speeds will reduce however there is a small risk that this won’t happen. Surveys to monitor motor vehicle speeds in each area will be carried out once the schemes have been in place for several months. If in time speeds remain unaltered, and subject to the availability of funding, additional measures will be considered to improve compliance with the new limit.

## **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 In light of the objection's received consideration Handsworth was given to recommending the retention of the existing speed limit in. However, such a recommendation would run contrary to the delivery of the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy. This would also mean that pedestrian and cyclist safety would not be improved, and this would be detrimental to the Council's Active Travel ambition and vision of Safer streets in our city.

## **6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The adoption of the Sheffield 20mph Speed Limit Strategy established the principle of introducing sign-only 20mph speed limits in all suitable residential areas. Reducing the speed of traffic in residential areas should, in the long term, reduce the number and severity of collisions, reduce the fear of accidents, encourage sustainable modes of travel, and contribute towards the creation of a more pleasant, cohesive environment.

Having considered the response from the public and other consultees it is recommended that the 20mph speed limit in Handsworth be implemented as, on balance, the benefits of the scheme in terms of safety and sustainability are considered to outweigh the concerns raised.

## Appendix C Objections

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Please confirm Receipt of my objection to the proposed 20mph blanket speed limit in Handsworth. It's a waste of monies better spent on repairing roads and other measures and is unenforceable and will not be managed.</p>  | <p>This scheme is funded by the Road Safety Fund (RSF) that comes from central government for new highway schemes. Highway Maintenance is funded by the PFI.</p> <p>The police are the only ones that can enforce speed restrictions. The police understandably target the vast majority of their enforcement efforts on major roads as those are the roads where most accidents, and the most severe accidents, occur. The police have indicated that 20mph limit areas will therefore not be subject to routine pre-planned enforcement</p> <p>The key to realising substantially lower speeds on our residential roads lies in affecting a fundamental shift in driver attitude. The aim, therefore, is to build a community acceptance that 20mph is the appropriate maximum speed to travel at in residential areas.</p> <p>The 20mph Speed Limit Strategy is an attempt to change the driving culture in residential areas and to reduce the impact of traffic on our neighbourhoods. The Council does, however, continue to invest in accident saving schemes and in road safety education, training and publicity targeted primarily at areas with the highest number of accidents</p> |
| <p>I have gotten home from work today, to find a letter from the council, explaining that they want to spaff more taxpayer money away, on a pointless idea. A 20mph area in Handsworth.</p> <p>How will this be achieved? Signs.</p> <p>The only road this would have made the slightest bit of sense on, Richmond park road, where children walk to school, has been completely missed out. I can only imagine the people that whacked a bike lane in Shalesmoor were behind this idea?</p> <p>You are probably feeling that I'm annoyed by this idea? Well you'd be correct.</p> <p>The main danger to people in this area, is the amount of brain dead, tracksuit wearing thieves that spend their pointless existence stealing and riding motorbikes around this area. Usually doing wheelies</p> | <p>The Council policy is to introduce the 20mph speed limit in all suitable residential areas of the city irrespective of the accident record. It will undoubtedly take time for people to alter long established habits, but even a marginal reduction in average speeds will, over time, contribute to the creation of safer streets.</p> <p>The key to realising substantially lower speeds on our residential roads lies in affecting a fundamental shift in driver attitude. The aim, therefore, is to build a community acceptance that 20mph is the appropriate maximum speed to travel at</p>  |

up and down roads and paths, riding 2 or 3 up on stolen bikes and scooters and threatening members of this community with machetes, bats and knives to get what they want.

I have been a motorcycle rider, riding almost every single day for the last 12 years now. I have had **3 bikejacking attempts in the last 2 years** and as a result i am now having to sell my relatively cheap and environmentally friendly method of transport and get a car. Simply because i dont want to be stabbed, rammed off, chased, threatened or potentially murdered by bike thieves.

So to come home and find that the council wants to waste tens of thousands of pounds by putting up signs (apart from on the main road next to the school), instead of tackling the actual danger to this community, quite frankly gives me no hope whatsoever for the future.

To add to this, there are no definitive studies that show 20mph zones work to reduce minor accidents. In most cases, they see a rise of around 17% (according to the institute of advanced motorists)

I would ask that instead of wasting precious tax money on signs, please, sort of the frankly terrifying rise in bike and bike related crime out.

I look forward to your response, and if you have a stab proof vest you want to throw my way, it'll make my commute feel slightly safer.

in residential areas.

The 20mph Speed Limit Strategy is an attempt to change the driving culture in residential areas and to reduce the impact of traffic on our neighbourhoods. The Council does, however, continue to invest in accident saving schemes and in road safety education, training and publicity targeted primarily at areas with the highest number of accidents

Richmond Park Road is a "C" class road with an average speed of over 27mph. Due to this, it does not meet the criteria to be included in a 20mph zone. On roads that do not meet the criteria for inclusion but have a school entrance on them, we look to install a part time 20mph limit. The entrance to Athelstan School is on Richmond Park way, which is included in the main 20mph scheme.

Anti-social and criminal behaviour of the type described should be reported to the police.