

# Report to Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

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**Decision to be taken on or after 6 August 2019**

**Decision can normally be implemented at least  
5 working days after decision has been signed.**

**Cabinet Member Report No. T21.19**

<b>Title:</b>	<b>A40 Oxford Road - Stokenchurch – 40 mph and 50 mph Speed Limits</b>
<b>Date:</b>	29 July 2019
<b>Author:</b>	Rob Smith – Director of Growth & Strategy and Highway Services
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Shane Thomas – 01296 382226
<b>Local members affected:</b>	Cllr Carl Etholen – Ridgeway West

*For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444*

## **Summary**

- 1. Transport for Buckinghamshire was commissioned to undertake various safety improvements along the A40 between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch. The proposed 50 mph and 40 mph speed limit proposals are aimed to reduce the speeds on the A40, Oxford Road on the approach to the Ibstone Road junction in Stokenchurch. The proposed 50 mph speed limit, is a continuation from the existing Oxfordshire County Council speed limit, which is then reduced on the immediate approach to the A40, Ibstone Road junction.*

## Recommendation

### It is recommended that:

- a. **The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation authorises the Director of Growth, Strategy and Highways to make the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the scheme outlined in this report as advertised during the Statutory Consultation process.**
- b. **That responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation Decision**

### A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

- 1.1 Buckinghamshire County Council is responsible for the highway network within its boundary; this includes the provision, management of the proposed speed limits.
- 1.2 The speed limit proposals are part of a Department for Transport (DfT) funded scheme, delivered by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB), to reduce the number of killed and serious injury collisions on the A40 between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch. Funding was allocated to carry out safety measures to improve this road, which included enhanced signing and lining, vegetation clearance & construction of a new footway.
- 1.3 The proposed 40 mph and 50 mph speed limit restrictions were advertised and promoted locally through a statutory consultation process carried out between 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2019 and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. In accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996. The Police, Fire & Rescue and the Ambulance Services were included in the consultation. Copies of the statutory consultation documents are located here:  
<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=9469>
- 1.4 Representatives from Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) attended the site of the proposed 40 and 50 mph speed limits on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to consider the nature of the road environment and consider the recent/ongoing development near the junction with the A40 Ibstone Road. There is evidence of a collision history where the A40, Oxford Road approaches the A40, Ibstone Road with drivers failing to adjust their speed prior to this junction.
- 1.5 There have been two collisions at the junction of the A40 Oxford Road and A40 Ibstone Road, Stokenchurch within a 5 year period (01/04/2014 to 31/03/2019). One was a serious collision and the other was classified as slight, both collisions were failing to stop at the junction.
- 1.6 There are farms both to the north and south of the A40 on the Oxford Road not far from this junction where there are both agricultural and commercial vehicles exiting onto this section of carriageway with vehicles travelling at inappropriate speeds according to those questioned on the site visit.
- 1.7 Near the county boundary with Oxfordshire there is a short section of national speed limit which is not providing drivers with continuity in respect of the speed limits being adopted along this section of carriageway. Therefore, this proposal clears up this ambiguity and the 40 and 50mph speed limits proposed are appropriate for this section of carriageway. The proposals follow guideline within the Department for Transport (DfT) circular 1/2013.

## **B. Other options available, and their pros and cons**

- 1.8 Keep the existing speed limits, however this will not achieve the desired reduction in collisions.
- 1.9 Other measures to improve signage and vegetation clearance have already been undertaken.

## **C. Resource implications**

- 1.10 The cost associated with this scheme has been allocated within a budget for the Department for Transport safer roads fund.
- 1.11 Future maintenance of the associated signs will be through the Transport for Buckinghamshire general maintenance budget.

## **D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment**

- 1.12 The sign installation work will be carried out by Transport for Buckinghamshire in-house signing crew.

## **E. Legal implications**

- 1.13 Section 122 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire County Council to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), on its highways.
- 1.14 When the decision is taken and recommendations agreed, the Traffic Regulation Order will be made and signed. The responders to the consultation and persons likely to be affected will be informed of the decision made, representations considered and the TRO will be signed and re-advertised by Buckinghamshire County Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

## **F. Property implications**

- 1.15 None identified.

## **G. Other implications/issues**

- 1.16 Equality and Diversity Issues – Equality Act 2010. This proposal will not have any disproportionate effect upon people with protected characteristics. The scheme will introduce a speed limit reduction to 50 mph and 40 mph on the A40 Oxford Road, Stokenchurch. This will encourage drivers to reduce their speed as they approach the A40 Ibstone Road, Stokenchurch junction, where there has been some existing collisions. Thames Valley Police will be able to carry out enforcement on the public highway.

## **H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views**

- 1.17 The Statutory Consultation was undertaken between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019. A summary of the feedback is shown in Appendix A.

1.18 Further details of written responses to the statutory consultation are contained in Appendix A. These have been reviewed and considered against the Statement of Reasons.

1.19 County Councillor Carl Etholen: "Very happy to be in support of this scheme which is much overdue and it goes a long way towards greater road safety."

1.20 In total 21 people responded via the online questionnaire, letters or emails.

Statistics for the proposed 40 mph speed limit

12 responses were opposed to the proposal

9 responses supported the proposal

1.21 Statistics for the proposed 50 mph speed limit

9 responses were opposed to the proposal

12 responses supported the proposal

1.22 Additional requests have been made for speed limit changes on the A40 between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch, These have not been included as part of this scheme.

#### **I. Communication issues**

All consultees and responders to the consultation will be contacted by either e-mail or letter and will be informed of the decision and where they can find the details of the statutory consultation and the decision taken. This report will be published on the County Council's web page.

#### **J. Progress Monitoring**

Following a decision on this report, the implementation of the scheme will be in August 2019.

#### **K. Review**

No additional speed limit reviews is proposed on this road.

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#### **Background Papers**

None

#### **Appendices to the Report**

**Appendix A:** Summary of Objections & Feedback & Responses to Statutory Consultation

**Appendix B:** Plans of A40 Oxford Road, Stokenchurch – Proposed Speed Limit –

- C10CASRED045 SL1 rev 0
- C10CASRED045 SL2 rev 0

**Appendix C:** Statement of Reasons, Notices & Traffic Regulation Order

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#### **Your questions and views**

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Member Services Team by 5.00pm on 5 August 2019. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)*