

# Report to Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

---

Decision to be taken on or after 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

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

Cabinet Member Report No. T04.20

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Proposed 50MPH Speed Limit on the A413 Buckingham Road between Buckingham Park roundabout and Whitchurch</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>17<sup>th</sup> February 2020</i>
<b>Author:</b>	Rob Smith; Director of Growth, Strategy and Highways
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Vanessa Silva; Technician; Tel: 01296674587
<b>Local members affected:</b>	Cllr. Netta Glover - Wing

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

## Summary

- 1. Transport for Buckinghamshire was commissioned to undertake a 50 miles per hour speed limit review and Statutory Consultation on the A413 Buckingham Road from the Buckingham roundabout to Whitchurch.*
- 2. This Key Decision Report relates to the subsequent review and the Statutory Consultation and makes Recommendations to the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation.*

## **Recommendation**

### **It is recommended that:**

- a. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation authorises the Director of Growth, Strategy and Highways not to proceed with the advertised proposal at this stage**
- 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 and enforcement of the proposed speed limit.
- 1.2 This proposal has arisen following requests from the Network Safety team following a part of a wider road safety initiative on that section of road, which was identified as having a high collision rate as part of annual analysis conducted by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB).
- 1.3 Therefore the following measures were proposed: enhanced signing, lining and vegetation clearance (completed in November 2018) and 50mph Speed Limit on the A413 Buckingham Road from Buckingham Park roundabout to Whitchurch (A413 Buckingham Road, Weedon / Hardwick / Whitchurch which extends from a point 15 metres north of its roundabout junction with Martin Dalby Way, Aylesbury, and continuing northwards, for approximately 4.68km, to a point 28 metres south of the junction with Bushmead Road, Whitchurch)
- 1.4 The proposed speed limit was advertised and promoted locally through a statutory consultation process carried out between 09<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 20<sup>th</sup> February 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=9444>
- 1.5 After consideration of the responses to the public consultation, which were a majority against the reduction, along with acknowledging the recent measures implemented this year, it was considered sensible to wait and see how those measures affect the collision rate before reaching a decision on the speed limit.
- 1.6 The speed survey showed that during peak times traffic was already travelling at or slightly above 50 mph, and so a permanent reduction would achieve very little. Also, taking into consideration the analysis of the contributory factors which showed excess speed was not contributory in the majority of collisions, and driver error or inattention was more common, the measures implemented so far better address this than a speed limit reduction.
- 1.7 Thames Valley Police confirmed that it had no objection to the proposals going ahead, as the speed data collected from 25/03/2019 to 01/04/2019 show average speeds to be commensurate with the proposed 50mph limit on this section of carriageway.

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

## 1.8 Option 1

Proceed with the 50MPH speed limit, this would go against the majority of the responses received in the Statutory Consultation.

## C. Resource implications

1.9 Any further reviews or proposals would require a Project Initiation Document and further agreed funding streams.

## D. VfM

Not applicable given recommendation to not proceed. Value for Money to be assessed when a future recommendation is proposed after assessment of impact of recent measures on road user activity (collision rates).

## E. Legal implications

1.10 Section 122 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire County Council as the Traffic Authority to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians). A Traffic Authority should only make an Order to control the flow of traffic where it is expedient to do so.

When the decision is taken and recommendations agreed, the respondees to the consultation and persons likely to be affected will be informed of the decision made and representations considered.

## F. Property implications

1.11 None identified.

## G. Other implications/issues

1.12 None identified

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

1.13 The Statutory Consultation was undertaken between 09<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019. A summary of the feedback is shown in Appendix A.

1.14 The full written responses to the statutory consultation are contained in Appendix B. These have been reviewed and considered against the Statement of Reasons.

1.15 The responses raised a number of comments and issues. The 97 objections have been summarised as follows ....

- a) A recurrent comment stated that recent works undertaken in November 2018 (signing, lining and vegetation clearance) have not had the chance to be assessed before the speed limit proposal was advertised. Network Safety team has also replied that they will wait and see how these measures already implemented affect the collision rate.
- b) Some comments received stated that the collisions were due to driver error, and not regarding the 60 mph current speed limit.
- c) Many respondees stated that some motorists already drive below 60mph, which are often accompanied by drivers who want to overtake these motorists, causing a dangerous scene. Many are concerned that if the speed limit is reduced to 50mph,

drivers will reduce even more their current speed and cause more dangerous overtaking.

- d) A series of comments stated the A road as being safe and in good condition to be a National Speed Limit.
- e) A few respondees stated that lowering the speed limit would not have an impact on motorists who already exceed the current speed limit
- f) Some comments received made suggestions to proposals that is not in the scope
- g) Some comments received made reference to enforcement and how they have not seen any enforcement of the current national speed limit.
- h) One objection received made reference to 85<sup>th</sup> percentile rules.

1.16 As well as objections, we have also received 59 responses in support which are summarised below:

- a) A number of comments received highlighted that many motorists are driving above the current national speed limit.
- b) A few comments received stated that the speed of traffic currently turns crossing the road very dangerous.
- c) Some comments highlighted problems with the road surface causing aquaplaning, so lowering the speed limit would reduce the crashes caused by aquaplaning.
- d) There are a number of bus stops along that stretch of the A413, so there are a significant number of pedestrians and the need to cross the road.
- e) A number of comments stated many accidents and fatalities on this stretch of the A413
- f) One comment received stated that there is poor lighting on the road

1.17 The area where the speed limit is proposed covers the Wing electoral division, covered by Councillor Netta Glover.

Cllr Netta Glover has reviewed the proposed measures subsequent objections and feedback and made the following comments: *"I believe that since the new road lining has been put in place that speeds have reduced. If we can produce the evidence that this is correct then we should wait for more feedback till after the winter. One of the things that worries me about 50mph is that opportunistic drivers frequently overtake those sticking to the speed limit. "*

#### **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**

If implemented, the enforcement of the restrictions would provide ongoing monitoring of the scheme.

#### **K. Review**

No further review is proposed at present.

---

### **Background Papers**

None

### **Appendices to the Report**

#### **Appendix A:**

Summary of Objections & Feedback

**Appendix B:**  
Responses to Statutory Consultation

**Appendix C:**  
Plan

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

---

***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 24/02/2020. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)*