



Report to Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date:	26 January 2022
Reference number:	TR02.22
Title:	A40 Oxford Road / Wycombe Speed Reduction Order
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Steve Broadbent
Author and/or contact officer:	Rob Smith – Service Director, Highways and Technical Services (Author) Bestman Agu – 01296531128 (Contact Officer); bestman.agu@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	West Wycombe; Councillors Marcus Angell, Darren Hayday & Orsolya Hayday
Recommendations:	It is recommended that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The Leader authorises the making of the Traffic Regulation Order as set out in this report, for the introduction of a 50mph speed limit on A40 Oxford / Wycombe Road, High Wycombeb) the Traffic Regulation Order is brought into operationc) That responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Decision
Reason for decision:	<i>Transport for Buckinghamshire was commissioned by Buckinghamshire Council to undertake a statutory consultation for a proposed 50 mph speed limit to be introduced on the A40 Oxford / Wycombe Road between West Wycombe and Studley Green. TfB carried out a speed limit assessment of the location against the DfT Guidance for Speed Limits and has approved a reduction to 50mph, which also has agreement from Thames Valley Police. Lowering the existing speed limit is required for</i>

safety reasons and to reduce collisions incidences along this specific road section.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This Key Decision Report relates to the outcome of a statutory consultation on the proposal to reduce the current national speed limit (60mph) to 50mph on A40 Oxford / Wycombe Road, between West Wycombe and Studley Green. Proposals aimed at reducing speeds along the A40 Oxford/Wycombe Road on the approach to Chipps Hill junction in Piddington.
- 1.2 An assessment of the location against the DfT Guidance for Speed Limits was undertaken by Transport for Buckinghamshire in July 2020.
- 1.3 TfB carried out a speed limit assessment to review the suitability of the scheme and recommends that introducing a 50mph speed limit on the A40 Oxford Road would be appropriate following the reported injury collisions [2 of these were Fatal, 3 were Serious and 9 Slight Injuries] between West Wycombe and Studley Green.
- 1.4 Scheme was identified and funded through Buckinghamshire Council's Network Safety Capital Funding.
- 1.5 The Parish Council and elected Members, Cllr Darren Hayday and Cllr Orsolya Hayday, have confirmed their support. No response received for Cllr Marcus Angell.
- 1.6 Thames Valley Police do not object to the proposals.
- 1.7 MP Steve Baker responded objecting to proposals.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for the highway network within its boundary; this includes the provision and management of speed limits. Enforcement of speed limits is then part of the remit of Thames Valley Police.
- 2.2 The speed limit proposal is part of a Buckinghamshire Council Network Safety Fund scheme, delivered by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB), to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury collisions on the A40 between West Wycombe and Studley Green – objective of the proposed change from the existing speed limit is to improve road safety within the local environment.

- 2.3 Funding has been allocated within the Network Safety Fund to consult on a lower speed limit on the A40 carriageway along with the necessary signage and lining works to introduce the new 50 mph speed limit.
- 2.4 The proposed speed limit was advertised and promoted locally through a statutory consultation process carried out between 16th July 2021 and 13th August 2021 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://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/roads-parking/a40-oxford-road-wycombe-road-speed-limit-reduction/>

- 2.5 Thames Valley Police confirmed that it had no objection to the proposals going ahead, as the speed data collected from 07/08/2020 to 13/08/2020 show mean speeds to be commensurate with the proposed 50mph limit on this particular section of carriageway.

Appendices to the Report

Appendix A:

Summary of Objections and Feedback

Appendix B:

Consultation Plans

Appendix C:

Notices, Traffic Regulation Order & Statement of Reasons,

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Keep the existing speed limits, however this will not achieve the desired reduction in collisions and/or near misses.
- 3.2 Requests were made and consideration was given to amending the speed limit on the A40 Oxford/Wycombe Road from 60mph to 40mph. However, this section of road does not meet the DfT criteria for a 40mph, and therefore unlikely to be supported by Thames Valley Police.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 Section 122 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 places a duty on Buckinghamshire Council to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), on its highways.
- 4.2 Regulation 14 of the TRO Regulations state that an order making authority may modify an order – whether in receipt of any objections or otherwise – before it is then made.
- 4.3 When the decision is taken and recommendations agreed, the Traffic Regulation Order will be made. The responders to the consultation and persons likely to be affected will be informed of the decision made.
- 4.4 In accordance with the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, the TRO will then be made and publicised by Buckinghamshire Council.
- 4.5 If approved, this key decision will be the authority for Legal Services to 'make' the TRO and advertise the Notice of Making in the local press in accordance with the Procedure Regulations.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 **Property & HR implications**– None identified
- 5.2 **Climate change & sustainability implications** – None identified
- 5.3 **Equality & 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 speed limit on A40 Oxford Road / Wycombe Road, High Wycombe. This will encourage drivers to reduce their speeds and drive safety on these roads, contributing to a safer highway network.
- 5.4 **Value for money** – The sign installation work will be tendered and carried out by an approved sub-contractor on behalf of Transport for Buckinghamshire.

Road markings will be tendered and carried out by an approved sub-contractor working on behalf of Transport for Buckinghamshire.
- 5.5 **Resource Implications** – If the recommendations are agreed, the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be made by Buckinghamshire Council and the implementation of signing and subsequent management would be delivered by Transport for Buckinghamshire and its supply chain partners. Enforcement of speed limits is the responsibility of Thames Valley Police.

Future maintenance of all assets will be through the Transport for Buckinghamshire general maintenance budgets. The funding of the scheme is from Buckinghamshire Council Network Safety Fund.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 A period of statutory consultation was undertaken between 16th July 2021 and 13th August 2021. A summary of the feedback is shown in Appendix A.
- 6.2 In total 127 people responded via the online questionnaire, letters or emails:
 - 85 responses supported the proposal <67%>
 - 39 responses were opposed to the proposal <31%>
- 6.3 MP Steve Baker submitted an objection to the proposals raising concerns that limit would not be adhered to and speed was not a contributory factor in recent fatal collisions.
- 6.4 Cllr Darren Hayday and Cllr Orsolya Hayday responded in support of the proposals.
- 6.5 Parish Councillor for the hamlets of Studley Green, Beacon's Bottom, Horsleys Green, and Waterend responded in support of the proposals.
- 6.6 North West Chilterns Community Board responded in support of the proposals.
- 6.7 Thames Valley Police have no objection to this speed limit reduction proposal and they have agreed to the scheme extents.
- 6.8 A summary and further details of comments are contained within Appendix A.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 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 Buckinghamshire Council web page.
- 7.2 No additional speed limit reviews are proposed on this road.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 If these recommendations are accepted, Buckinghamshire Council will make the amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order covering the locations outlined in this Key Decision Report (KDR).
- 8.2 Following a decision on this report, the implementation of the scheme will be in Spring 2022 (**NB:-** If this report is rejected, there will be no changes to the current Traffic Regulation Order).
- 8.3 No further reviews have been planned for this road.

9. Background papers

- 9.1 The full written responses received are shown in Appendix A.
- 9.2 The map tiles which were advertised at the statutory consultation stage can be found in Appendix B.
- 9.3 The full details of our proposals, contents summary from the statutory consultation and all other statutory consultation documents including its draft Traffic Regulation Order, statement of reasons and On-Site Notice can be found in Appendix C.

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.