Division(s): Sutton Courtenay and Marcham

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 3 APRIL 2017 PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT CHANGE - B4017 ABINGDON ROAD, DRAYTON

Report by Strategic Director, Communities

Introduction

1. This report presents responses received in the course of a statutory consultation on an amended proposal for a revision to the speed limit on the B4017 between Abingdon and Drayton.

Background

2. An extension of the 30mph speed limit on B4017 Abingdon Road was proposed by developers as part of works to create a new access for a residential development at the location shown at Annex 1. The consultation on this proposal was carried out in September and October 2016, and the responses reported to the Cabinet Member Decisions meeting on 12 January, where, following representations from the Parish Council, it was agreed to consult on a revised proposal to replace the existing 50mph speed limit between Abingdon and Drayton with a 40mph speed limit, with no changes being made to the 30mph speed limits, as shown at Annex 2.

Consultation

- 3. The formal consultation on the revised proposal was carried out between 1 February and 3 March 2017. A public notice was placed in the Abingdon Herald newspapers and sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire & Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Drayton Parish Council and the local County Councillor.
- 4. Thames Valley Police registered an objection on the grounds that while the average speeds as measured by a speed survey carried out in February 2017 were at 42.5mph likely to be acceptable, the 85th percentile speed 48.8mph was almost 2mph higher than the 7mph threshold above the speed limit used by the police when assessing the likely demands for enforcement.
- 5. Abingdon Town Council expressed support for the proposal; no response was received from Drayton Parish Council.

Review of responses

- 6. The objection of Thames Valley Police is noted and it is accepted that there is no proposed change to the character of the road on the length where a 40mph speed limit is proposed that might help further support compliance. However, as noted in the police response, the existing average speed is already fairly close to being acceptable from their perspective, and it seems very likely based on research on the effect of speed limits used in the Department for Transport guidance on setting speed limits that if the proposal was to be approved, the 85th percentile speeds would reduce to below the above 7mph threshold applied by the police.
- 7. The support for the proposal by Abingdon Town Council is noted

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

8. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

9. Funding for the speed limit extension has been provided by the developer of the residential land adjacent to the B4017 Abingdon Road.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Environment is RECOMMENDED to approve the proposals as advertised

OWEN JENKINS
Director for Infrastructure Delivery

Background papers: Plan of proposed restrictions

Consultation responses

Contact Officers: David Tole 07920 084148

March 2017

ANNEX 1 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT Proposed extension of 30mph speed limit Site of residential B4017 DRAYTON ROAD development Speed limit terminal point Marsh Existing 30mph speed limit ABINGDON-ON-THAMES (to remain) Existing 50mph speed limit (to remain) Marcham Site location Track Manor Courtenay Appleford Little Milton Track 63m approx. 90 metres WANTAGE Moreton Lockinge West Ginge Track Sherwood Farm STONEHILL LANE Path CORNERVILLE ROAD Farm Path Sutton Wick □ Scrap Yard Manor 63m Farm (N.T.S)Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office @ Crown Copyright OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Date drawn: 18/08/2016 Map centre: Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. easting. 448060, northing. 194830 Drawn by: CJM Oxfordshire County Council. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2016. 100023343

ANNEX 2 OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT Proposed 40 mph speed limit Site of residential in place of current 50mph development speed limit Speed limit terminal point Existing 30mph speed limit ABINGDON-ON-THAMES (to remain) Site location Manor Courtenay Appleford Little STONEHILL LANE Stonehill Milton Power House AT rove North WANTAGE Ardington Site of residential Hendred West Ginge Stonehill development approx. 800 metres Sewage Works Oday Hill Track Willowdene Nurseries Gravel Pit - Z . • Gravel'Pit Track Sherwood Tip CORNERVILLE ROAD Sutton Wick □□ Scrap (N.T.S) Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Date drawn: 20/01/2017 Map centre: Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Drawn by: CJM easting. 448060, northing. 194830 Oxfordshire County Council. © Crown Copyright and database rights 2017. 100023343

ANNEX 3

RESPONDENT	SUMMARISED COMMENTS
(1) Thames Valley Police	Thames Valley Police are not opposed to lowering speed limits providing they are appropriate to the road environment and likely to have casualty reduction benefits. The recent speed survey shows the 85 th percentile speed to be 48.8 mph and the mean speed to be 42.5mph. While the latter appears acceptable, the view of the police is that where the 85 th percentile speed is 7mph or more over the proposed limit, the limit is unlikely to be effective without other measures such as engineering or continual enforcement, placing further burden on the limited police resources for enforcement. It is the police view that the current speed limit is appropriate to this environment and therefore object to this proposal.
(2) Abingdon Town Council	Expressed support for the proposal