## CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT –26 MAY 2022

## CHARLBURY: B4437 FOREST ROAD – PROPOSED EXTENSION OF 30MPH SPEED LIMIT

Report by Corporate Director, Environment and Place

## RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Highway Management is RECOMMENDED to approve as advertised the proposed extension of the 30mph speed limit on the B4437 Forest Road.

## Executive summary

2. This report presents responses received to a statutory consultation on proposals to extend the 30mph speed limit on the B4437 Forest Road at Charlbury as shown in **Annex 1** as a result of adjacent development.

# **Financial Implications**

3. Funding for consultation on the proposals has been provided by the developers of adjacent land, who will also fund the extension of the limit if approved

# **Equality and Inclusion Implications**

4. No implications in respect of equalities or inclusion have been identified in respect of the proposals.

# **Sustainability Implications**

5. The proposals would help facilitate walking and cycling and the safe movement of traffic.

## Consultation

6. Formal consultation was carried out between 17 March 2021 and 15 April 2022. A notice was published in the Oxford Times newspaper and an email sent to statutory consultees, including Thames Valley Police, the Fire &

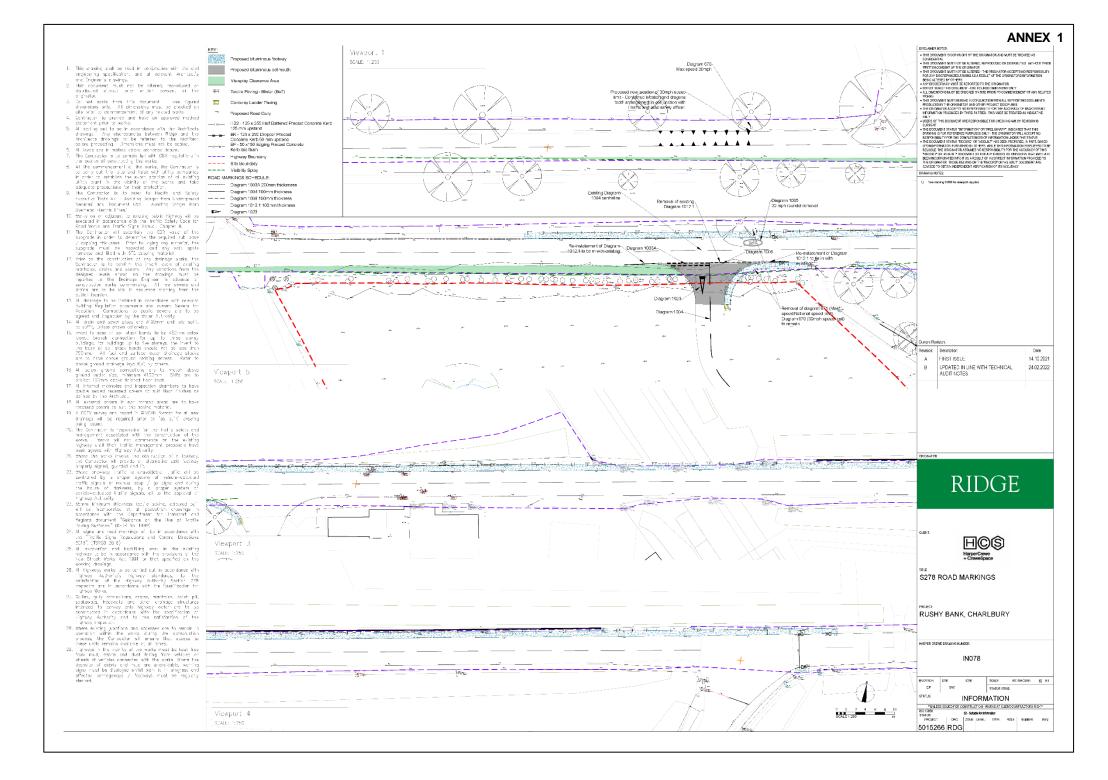
Rescue Service, Ambulance service, Bus operators, Charlbury Town Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, and the local County Councillor representing the Charlbury & Wychwood division.

- 7. Thirteen responses were received during the formal consultation: with 2 objections, 1 raising concerns, 8 in support and 2 non-objections.
- 8. The responses are shown at **Annex 2**, and copies of the original responses are available for inspection by County Councillors.
- 9. Thames Valley Police raised no objection to the proposal.
- 10. Charlbury Town Council and members of the public expressed support for the proposals.
- 11. Two objections, one expression of concern and one response expressing no opinion were received from members of the public stating that the proposals were either unnecessary or would not be effective in reducing speeds. Noting these, the proposed speed limit extension is considered appropriate taking account of the proposed development and existing adjacent junction, and that although it is agreed that its effectiveness would be increased by also providing traffic calming measures, the speed limit extension with speed limit signing alone will still help improve safety for all road users.

Bill Cotton Corporate Director, Environment and Place

Annexes	Annex 1: Consultation Plan Annex 2: Consultation responses
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RESPONDENT	COMMENTS
(1) Traffic Management Officer, (Thames Valley Police)	No objection
(2) Charlbury Town Council	Support – the Town council is looking to reduce speeds around the town
(3) Individual, (Oxford, Rymers Lane)	<b>Object</b> – Statement of reasons suggests that the existence of a junction into a 60mph road is dangerous - given the number in the country this is clearly nonsense.
(4) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Crawborough)	<b>Object</b> – Currently I do not see the need in extending the limit to the proposed site. It is already stretched beyond the railway which is more than sufficient.
(5) Local Resident, (Woodstock, Boundary Close)	Concerns – This will not provide any improvement
(6) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Little Lees)	<b>Support</b> – This will be required to ensure the safety of those accessing the new development including walking along the road
(7) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Nineacres Lane)	<b>Support</b> – I am in favour of the Rushy Bank development because of its provision of some low-cost housing and also of care for dementia patients. I am therefore very much in favour of the access to that development being made as safe as possible.
(8) Local Resident, (Charlbury, The Slade)	Support – It is a wholly appropriate measure to protect road users and residents

(9) Local Resident, (Charlbury, The Green)	<b>Support</b> – Traffic heading towards Charlbury can travel at considerable speed along this stretch of road. The planned development of Rusty Bank will add to the hazards. Many vehicles already ignore the speed limit until they reach the mini roundabout near the station. This is an excellent proposal.
(10) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Quarry Lane)	Support – To improve the safety of all concerned: motorists, walkers, cyclists etc
(11) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Wychwood Close)	Support – Anything that prevents speeding traffic is good
(12) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Dancers Hill)	<b>Support</b> – Traffic drives far too fast on that road already and it will be dangerous for any new development not to change the speed limit.
(13) Local Resident, (Charlbury, Hundley Way)	<b>No opinion</b> – Unless the developers are prepared to fund physical measures to slow traffic at this point, with Thames Valley Police unwilling to enforce speed limits on the entrances to Charlbury, the limit will have no difference on driver behaviour.