

Meeting of the Cabinet – 14th March 2012

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Safer Routes to School – 20mph Speed Limit Policy

Purpose of Report

1. To seek Cabinet's approval to a 20mph speed limit policy outside schools to inform their implementation in accordance with the resolution of the Council.

Background

2. The Council at its meeting on 10th October 2011 resolved that:
 - That this Council implements 20mph speed limit zones outside schools in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley where this is appropriate.
 - That the Council notes that this will be consistent with two of the key objectives of the Council and will further demonstrate our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the children in our Borough.
 - That a further report be submitted to the Cabinet on the implementation of this resolution.
3. A policy regarding the consideration and implementation of 20mph speed limits outside schools has been developed which considers the assessment and prioritisation of such schemes.
4. Legislation provides two different means of implementing mandatory 20mph speed limits, broadly these are;
 - Use of speed limits, indicated by terminal and repeater signs alone;
 - A zonal approach using traffic terminal signs together with suitable traffic calming measures to provide a self enforcing element.
5. The feasibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit outside a school depends on a number of key factors including; the type and layout of the road, the existing traffic speeds and the presence of existing facilities that might help to mitigate the pedestrian/vehicle conflict that occurs at peak school times.

6. The impact of these factors and the process for prioritising requests for 20mph speed limits outside schools is explained in Appendix 1 'A policy for 20mph Speed Limits outside schools' and is attached to this report.

Sustainable Transport

7. The contents of this report support both the objectives of the West Midlands Local Transport Plan and the Council's Transport policies by considering measures which could contribute to improved highway and pedestrian safety and encourage sustainable modes of travel to the benefit of the local community.

Finance

8. The costs incurred in developing the policy have been funded from existing resources held by DUE. The implementation of 20mph speed limit schemes would be funded from the Integrated Transport Block annual allocation for Safer Routes to School.

Law

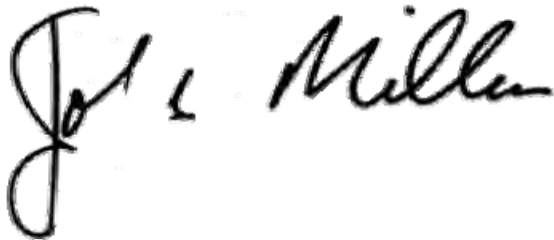
9. Traffic Regulation Orders are made under powers contained in Section 1 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
10. Traffic signs are provided under powers contained in Section 64 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, subject to regulations made by the Secretary of State for Transport.
11. The Council is empowered to improve highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.
12. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of its functions.
13. The Traffic Calming Act 1992 amends the Highways Act 1980 to allow works to be carried out to promote safety and preserve or improve the environment.
14. The Highways Act 1980, as amended by the Road Traffic Act 1991 requires the installation of road humps to be advertised on-street and in the local newspaper for objections.
15. The introduction of, or amendments to, speed limits are authorised by Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Equality Impact

16. The contents of this report comply with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy whilst also seeking to introduce measures that will be of direct benefit to children and some of the most vulnerable road users in the community including young children, the elderly, pedestrians and cyclists in general, and those with impaired mobility.

Recommendation

17. It is recommended that Cabinet support the 20mph speed limit policy outside schools.



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Director of the Urban Environment

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List of Background Papers

Department for Transport – Traffic Advisory Leaflet 9/99 – 20mph speed limits and zones
Department for Transport Circular 1/06 – Setting Local Speed Limits