

OFFICER DECISION REPORT – TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO)

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INFORMAL CONSULTATION / APPROVAL TO PROGRESS

PREPARED BY: Traffic Management Team, Highways and Traffic Group

TITLE OF REPORT: 20mph Speed Limit, High Street, Midsomer Norton

PROPOSAL: 20mph Speed Limit

SCHEME REF No: 21 – 006

REPORT AUTHOR: Lewis Cox

1. DELEGATION

The delegation to be exercised in this report is contained within **Part 3, Section 4** of the Constitution under the **Delegation of Functions to Officers**, as follows:

Section A	The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Divisional Directors and Heads of Service have delegated power to take any decision falling within their area of responsibility....”
Section B	Without prejudice to the generality of this, Officers are authorised to: serve any notices and make, amend or revoke any orders falling within his/her area of responsibility.
Section D9	An Officer to whom a power, duty or function is delegated may nominate or authorise another Officer to exercise that power, duty or function, provided that Officer reports to or is responsible to the delegator.

For the purpose of this report, the Director of Place Management holds the delegated power to make, amend or revoke any Orders.

2. LEGAL AUTHORITY

This proposal is made in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, which under Section 1 provides, generally, for Orders to be made for the following reasons, and in the case of this report specifically for the reason(s) shown below:

(a)	for avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising, or	X
(b)	for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road, or	
(c)	for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians), or	X
(d)	for preventing the use of the road by vehicular traffic of a kind which, or its use by vehicular traffic in a manner which, is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of the road or adjoining property,	

(e)	(without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (d) above) for preserving the character of the road in a case where it is specially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot, or	
(f)	for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs, or	
(g)	for any of the purposes specified in paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of section 87 of the Environment Act 1995 (air quality)	

3. **PROPOSAL**

To implement a 20mph Speed Limit along the High Street, Midsomer Norton including South Road, Excelsior Terrace, Rackvernal Road, Gullock Tynning, Somer Court, Primrose Lane, Pit Road and The Island. Also included are some small sections in the approaching roads (Silver Street, Redfield Road, Church Lane) Midsomer Norton as denoted in red on the attached plan.

Whilst it is accepted that speed limit reduction alone will not lead to the significant increase in local journeys taken by walking and cycling that the council wants to achieve, it is one of a number of measures that, when combined with others, will be an important step towards this.

4. **BACKGROUND**

The High Street, Midsomer Norton continues to be the focus of local shopping, services and celebrations for its residents and visitors alike. It is noted that the High Street attracts a number of pedestrians, and the through road can be used as an alternative route for vehicle traffic.

There are several schools and sports facilities within the vicinity of the High Street and 20mph speed limits encourage more considerate driving, leading to safer streets for all road users. Including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. The lower speeds reduce the risk and severity of road collisions.

The Council is increasing its efforts to introduce traffic management measures which encourage greater walking and cycling for some journeys, particularly the commute to work. The impact of the Covid19 movement and social distancing restrictions has further emphasised the benefits that can be gained from increased walking and cycling, including those associated with air quality and health.

It is considered, therefore, that the existing 30mph speed limit along the High Street and its surrounding streets should be reduced to 20mph as indicated within the plan.

5. **SOURCE OF FINANCE**

This proposal is being funded under the Traffic Management Team schemes 2021/2022.

6. **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT**

The proposal requires informal consultation with the Chief Constable, Ward Members and the Cabinet Members for Transport.

PROPOSALS APPROVED FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH THE CHIEF CONSTABLE AND WARD MEMBERS.

Signature: 

Date: 12th July 2021

Paul Garrod
Traffic Management and Network Manager

