**OFFICER DECISION REPORT – TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER (TRO)**

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**INFORMAL CONSULTATION (with the Cabinet Member for Transport)**

PREPARED BY: Traffic Management Team, Highways and Transport Group

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| **TITLE OF REPORT:**  **PROPOSAL:**  **SCHEME REF No:**  **REPORT AUTHOR:** | **Lansdown Road, Bath (south of Richmond Road)**  **20mph speed limit**  **23-006**  **Neil Terry** |

**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:

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| **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 purposes of this report, the Director of Place Management holds the delegated power to make, amend or revoke any Traffic Regulation 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:

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| (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 |  |
| (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 | X |
| (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 introduce a 20mph speed limit on Lansdown Road, Bath, between its junction with Richmond Road and the existing 20mph speed limit at its junction with The Paragon.

The extent of the proposed 20mph speed limit is shown on the attached drawing.

**4. BACKGROUND**

Lansdown Road, to the south of Richmond Road, is predominantly residential in nature, with activity associated with walking, cycling, wheeling and public transport along its length. There are also shops, restaurants, and hotels along the lower section of the road, and the route is used by school children and parents heading to and from local schools, in particular St. Stephens Primary School.

Representations have been received from the local Ward Members and residents requesting that the speed limit is reviewed, citing road safety concerns and difficulties negotiating the road, but also in response to several loss-of-control collisions along the lower section.

The Traffic Management Team is currently working with our Partner Consultants, AECOM, on a Corridor Study for the same length of Lansdown Road. This study will identify potential walking, wheeling and public transport infrastructure improvements, although these will only be concept at this stage. Future funding opportunities will be pursued.

The proposed 20mph speed limit would be beneficial for the development and design of any future proposed infrastructure improvements. It should also be noted that the residential areas to each side of Lansdown Road are already subject to a 20mph speed limit, so this proposal would present an opportunity to rationalise the existing 20/30mph terminal speed limit signing at each side road junction.

# 5. SOURCE OF FINANCE

The scheme will be funded through the Transport Improvement Programme.

**6. CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT**

Theproposal requires informal consultation with the Chief Constable, Ward Members, and the Cabinet Member for Transport.

**7.** **COMMENTS RECEIVED TO DATE**

**Chief Constable**

It is understood from the Officer Decision Report that the proposal is “*To introduce a 20mph speed limit on Lansdown Road, Bath, between its junction with Richmond Road and the existing 20mph speed limit at its junction with The Paragon*.” and that  “*Lansdown Road, to the south of Richmond Road, is predominantly residential in nature, with activity associated with walking, cycling, wheeling and public transport along its length.  There are also shops, restaurants, and hotels along the lower section of the road, and the route is used by school children and parents heading to and from local schools, in particular St. Stephens Primary School.*

*Representations have been received from the local Ward Members and residents requesting that the speed limit is reviewed, citing road safety concerns and difficulties negotiating the road, but also in response to several loss-of-control collisions along the lower section.*

*The Traffic Management Team is currently working with our Partner Consultants, AECOM, on a Corridor Study for the same length of Lansdown Road.  This study will identify potential walking, wheeling and public transport infrastructure improvements, although these will only be concept at this stage.  Future funding opportunities will be pursued.*

*The proposed 20mph speed limit would be beneficial for the development and design of any future proposed infrastructure improvements.  It should also be noted that the residential areas to each side of Lansdown Road are already subject to a 20mph speed limit, so this proposal would present an opportunity to rationalise the existing 20/30mph terminal speed limit signing at each side road junction*.”

With regard to the loss of control collisions mentioned, please could you advise whether any skid resistance data has been gathered in the lower section shown on the plan or whether gathering this information will form part of the investigation in the Corridor Study mentioned above?

With regard to the proposed 20mph speed restriction, as previously discussed, we have a Force stance regarding the introduction of speed limits, which has been written to reflect the current speed environment. I copy this below for your information.

“*Speed limits are only one element of speed management and local speed limits should not be set in isolation. They should be part of a package with other measures to manage speeds, which include engineering, visible interventions and landscaping standards that respect the needs of all road users and raise the driver’s awareness of their environment, together with education, driver information, training and publicity.*

*The police service has to ensure all resources are used effectively in responding to community priorities. Avon and Somerset Constabulary will support all appropriate speed limits, including 20mph roads, where;*

*The limit looks and feels like the limit, giving visiting motorists who wish to conform that chance;*

*the desired outcome has to be speeds at the limit chosen so as to achieve safe roads for other and vulnerable users, not high speeds and high enforcement;*

*the limit is self-enforcing (with reducing features) not requiring large scale enforcement;*

*the limit is only introduced where mean speeds are already close to the limit to be imposed, (24mph in a 20mph limit) or with interventions that make the limit clear to visiting motorists;*

*speeding problems identified in an area must have the engineering, site clarity and need re-assessed, not simply a call for more enforcement.*

*Enforcement will be considered in all clearly posted limits, given other priorities, and this will be by:*

*Targeted enforcement where there is deliberate offending and the limits are clear; Where limits are not clear (that is they don’t feel like or look like the limit or are on inappropriate roads), they will not be routinely enforced, only targeted where there is intelligence of obvious deliberate disregard which may result in increased threat, harm or risk to other road users.*

*Deliberate high harm offenders will always be targeted and prosecuted whereas enforcement against drivers who simply misread the road may not be appropriate. None of the above should in anyway leave the impression that we will not enforce the law. As with all speed limits, and other enforcement work, we will use evidence to ensure that our resources are allocated in the most appropriate way using appropriate tactics.*

*Enforcement of limits that do not comply with the above representations could lead to mistaken offending and could risk the loss of public support. Enforcement cannot and must not take the place of proper engineering and or clear signing*.”

We do not, as part of our response on behalf of the Chief Constable to formal consultation, check the accuracy or validity of what is being proposed but we do consider implications for road safety and enforcement.

We always expect that:

a) the powers being exercised are available to you as traffic authority, are valid and are appropriate for the proposals;

b) the descriptions of the lengths of road, the road names, the road numbers and any directional descriptions are correct and accurate;

c) where any proposals replace existing restrictions or prohibitions, that the previous orders are adequately revoked or varied;

d) the mandatory traffic signs giving legal effect to the order will be fully TSRGD compliant, will give drivers adequate guidance and will placed to accord to the descriptions in the order.

We have worked on the assumption that, by submitting this TRO for consultation, you are also confirming the above points and that subject to consultation process, the order will be made. Any enforcement action taken by the Police will be based on this and, should this transpire not to be the case, Avon & Somerset Constabulary will not accept any liability – financial or otherwise – arising as a result.

**Ward Members**

Councillor Lucy Hodge:

As ward councillor, I support the proposed 20 mph speed limit for Lansdown Road which has been repeatedly requested by Lansdown residents. There have been at least five significant road traffic accidents in 2022 along this stretch of Lansdown Road, where high traffic speeds prevail. The road is difficult and dangerous to cross to access public transport and services, particularly for residents with impaired mobility.

I am, however, disappointed that, having made a strong case over three years for a 20 mph speed limit to be put in place along the entire length of Lansdown Road from the level of Granville Road down, in order to slow traffic passing through this residential area which is a route to four schools (Kingswood Senior School, Royal High School, Abbot Alphege Academyl and St. Stephen’s Church School) and despite demonstrating high levels of local support, the proposal being taken forward is only applicable from Richmond Road south. This represents a missed opportunity to improve safety along the length of Lansdown Road.

Councillor Mark Elliott:

No response.

REPORT APPROVED FOR CIRCULATION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT



Paul Garrod Date: 19/01/23

Traffic Management and Network Manager