

Bath & North East Somerset Council

DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Paul Crossley, Council Leader (in the absence of Councillor Roger Symonds)		
DECISION DATE:	On or after 1st July 2012	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:	
		E	2453
TITLE:	Twerton and Southdown Area-wide 20mph Speed Limit		
WARD:	Southdown, Twerton		
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM			
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A: Drawing No TC8115/GA/01B.pdf - Showing the proposed area Appendix B: Responses to Leaflet Drop Consultation Appendix C: Summary of Formal Objections and Officer Response Appendix D: Equalities Impact Assessment			

(In the absence of Cllr. Roger Symonds, the Cabinet Member for Transport, I nominate myself to make the Single Member decision)

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report considers the responses to the formal advertisement of the proposal to introduce a 20mph speed limit on roads in the Twerton and Southdown areas of Bath.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet member is asked to agree that, subject to scheme delivery proposals being approved through the PID process:

2.1 The scheme is approved as advertised,

2.2 That the objectors are informed accordingly.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A funding item for these works was agreed by Cabinet and would be available from our own Capital. There are minimal after scheme completion costs for maintaining the terminal signs, repeater signs and speed repeater road markings. The whole life costs of the asset have been calculated to be considered as a growth item for revenue maintenance.

4 CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone.
- Creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and feel safer. The proposal will improve the environment by reducing the effect that the motor vehicle has on resident's physical and mental health.
- Improving transport and the public realm. The proposal will encourage people to walk and cycle more.
- It will be self-enforcing.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 Lower speed limits in urban areas of cities have shown that they improve the environment for the residents and encourage walking and cycling. Generally such limits are widely welcomed by residents and have been successful in Portsmouth and Bristol, amongst others. Bristol City Council is currently rolling out its central area 20mph speed limits to all areas of the city, including those parts adjacent to Bath & North East Somerset.
- 5.2 Early this year a leaflet drop was made in Twerton and Southdown. Its purpose was to collect residents views about the Council's proposal to reduce the speed limit of roads in their neighbourhood to 20mph. 5700 leaflets were distributed in the affected areas. 1097 were returned; approx. 746 were in favour, 331 against and 20 gave no opinion. Appendix B shows the details of the replies.
- 5.3 On the 11th April 2012 Cabinet approved a programme to introduce 20mph speed limits in residential roads across the District in 14 phases. Twerton and Southdown is phase one of this programme.
- 5.4 The proposals were publically advertised from 7th June to 28th June and six people sent in objections and each raised a number of issues. The points raised by each of the six objectors have been collated and summarised into the twenty nine items shown in Appendix C.
- 5.5 Some objections resulted from a lack of understanding of the proposal and the benefits that they would bring to the residents of the areas. Therefore it is recommended that the scheme is implemented as advertised, but that in such a case, a broad ranging information/publicity campaign is carried out to inform and educate people so that they would accept and understand why they are being asked to drive at 20mph.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The report author and Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 The EqIA is attached to this report (Appendix D).

8 RATIONALE

8.1 Introduction of a 20mph speed limit is recommended as it will improve the environment, and it should encourage more walking and cycling.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The option of implementing 20mph Speed Limit Zones using traffic calming measures was considered to be too expensive.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Ward Councillor; Cabinet members; Staff; Other B&NES Services; Local Residents; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

10.2 Consultation was carried out by letter drop, formal consultation by public advertisement of the proposals for 21 days, and circulation of this report.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Sustainability; Young People; Human Rights; Corporate; Health & Safety.

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Divisional Director – Legal and Democratic Services) and Section 151 Officer (Divisional Director - Finance) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Tony Rutter 394207
Background papers	Cabinet Resolution E2345 Implementation of 20mph Speed Limits in Bath & NE Somerset. E2345 Implementing 20mph Speed Limits E-mailed objections in response to public advertisement
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