

## Highways Committee

21<sup>st</sup> February 2012

### B6277 Speed Limit Review



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## Report of Terry Collins, Corporate Director Neighbourhood Services Councillor Bob Young, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Strategic Environment and Leisure

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### Purpose of the Report

- 1 To advise Members of an objection received to the proposed amendments to existing speed limits on the B6277 and C162, Cotherstone
- 2 It is recommended that the Committee reject the objection to the proposal. At the same time it is still considered that the proposed location of the speed limit does not adhere to the best practice guidance for the Setting of Credible Speed Limits. Therefore in this instance it is recommended that consideration be given to commencing the 30mph zone at a location near the midway point of the existing and proposed location.

It is also recommended that the Committee support the proposal for the relocation of the speed limit on the C162 and proceed with the implementation of the extension to the existing 30mph limit at this point.

### Background

- 3 A speed limit review was completed on the B6277, C162 and various other side roads adjoining the B6277 in April 2011. This review was undertaken in accordance with current best practice guidance produced by the Department for Transport (DfT) known as Circular 1/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. Although the proposals of this review were agreed at the April Highways Committee, it was done with the recommendation that a further consultation exercise was undertaken with regards to the positioning of the 30mph signs on the B6277 and C162 in Cotherstone.
- 4 The County Council have adopted this guidance and incorporated this DfT document into 'The County Durham and Darlington Speed Management Strategy 2006-2011' ensuring good practice is maintained countywide.

- 5 Research and experience gained at other locations within the County have proven that the installation of speed limits which are credible with the environment through which the motorist is travelling results in improved driver compliance.
- 6 De-restricted speed limit orders are to be created for the sections of highway covered by street lighting which are not subject to a 30mph speed limit. In addition 30mph speed limit orders are to be created for the sections of non-street lit areas which are to be subject to a 30mph speed limit.
- 7 The B6277 forms a route linking the A66 transpennine road to the County Boundary at Langdon Beck near Alston, Cumbria. It is therefore a key strategic route through Teesdale. The B6277 travels through a number of villages, including Cotherstone.

### **Proposal**

- 8 To amend the part of the existing Traffic Regulation Order relating to the 30mph speed limits on the B6277 and C162 in Cotherstone.
- 9 It was requested at the Durham County Council's April Highways Committee that we consult on the amendment of the 30mph zones at the southern end of the B6277 and the eastern end of the C162 in Cotherstone. These amendments are as follows:
  - (a) at the C162 Briscoe Lane, Cotherstone - 30mph speed limit to be relocated to a point 79 metres west of its current location. See Appendix 2.
  - (b) at the B6277, Cotherstone (southern end) – 30mph speed limit to be relocated to a point 108 metres south of its current location. See Appendix 3.

### **Statutory Consultation**

- 10 The Traffic Regulation Order was drafted and advertised as per the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 with the objection period ending 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011.
- 11 The Local Members, Councillors Bell and Harrison (Barnard Castle West Ward) were both consulted and offered no objection to the proposal.
- 12 The consultation exercise resulted in 1 objection. This objection was submitted by Durham Constabulary in relation to the relocation of the 30mph limit on the B6277 northbound approach, as detailed in paragraph 9a. No objections were received in relation to the relocation of the speed limit on the C162, as detailed in paragraph 9b.

## **Objections / Representations and Responses**

### 13 Objection

Durham Constabulary objects to the relocation of the 30mph limit on the B6277 northbound approach into Cotherstone. Their objection notes that the road at this point is predominantly straight and slightly undulating with a rural aspect. They also note that there is no record of any traffic accidents at this location within the last 3 years. The issue of credibility is also raised and the concern is that if the speed limits are relocated then this may well lead to higher speeds of vehicles within the built up area.

### 14 Response

*The existing location of the signage is compliant with current best practice guidance produced by the Department for Transport (DfT) known as Circular 1/06 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. Compliance would not be met should the speed limits be moved southwards outside of the built up area and this may result in higher vehicle speeds being recorded within the village itself. Again, as mentioned previously it is considered that the positioning of the 30mph signs in an area of no frontage development would send a confusing message to the motorist.*

## **Recommendation**

15 It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee reject the objection but do not proceed with the proposal to amend the existing Traffic Regulation Order in relation to speed limit on the B6277 as is currently outlined. Instead, it is recommended that a further consultation exercise be undertaken with the speed limit commencing at a point near the bridge. It is considered that this point offers a reasonable compromise as it will allow improved visibility to the signs whilst also maintaining that they are in relative close proximity to the built up area.

16 It is RECOMMENDED that the committee pursue with the scheme as proposed in relation to the C162.

## **Background Papers**

Area Traffic Office Scheme File  
Department of Transport Circular 1/06 – Setting Local Speed Limits  
The County Durham and Darlington Speed Management Strategy 2006-2011

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