

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member and Advisers for Regeneration and Development
2.	Date:	Monday 7 th October 2013
3.	Title:	Main Street Rotherham Town Centre. Ward 13 Proposed pedestrian improvement scheme
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To report an objection to the proposed 20mph zone extension on Main Street, Don Street and The Statutes, Rotherham Town Centre

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member resolve that:-

- a) The objection be not acceded to and the detailed design for the proposal is undertaken and the scheme implemented.
 - b) That monitoring is undertaken to evaluate the success of the 20mph zone within the initial 6 months of the scheme being completed. Should this indicate that speeds not be commensurate with the 20mph speed limit that further speed reducing measures are designed and subject to consultation and approval, implemented.
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7. Proposals and Details

A report was submitted to Cabinet Member on 14th June 2013 minute no G13 refers outlining the proposed pedestrian improvement scheme along Main Street and specifically outside Riverside House. Part of this improvement scheme involves the extension of the soon to be completed Town Centre 20mph zone along Main Street, (from Westgate to New York Way), the full length of Don Street and The Statutes.

As part of the scheme investigation a speed survey was undertaken on Main Street outside Riverside House. The result of this survey demonstrated that the average speed of vehicles in this area is 25mph and 27mph in each direction. Therefore in order to comply with the necessary reduction in speeds to achieve the requirements in the Dft guidance for implementing a 20mph zone i.e. that recorded average speeds should not exceed 24mph, then a 1mph and 3mph reduction is required. It is felt that the proposals for the pedestrian improvement scheme on Main Street will have the desired effect of reducing vehicle speeds accordingly. These features include

- a new zebra crossing outside Riverside House between the junctions with Don Street and The Statutes resulting in the relocation of two disabled parking spaces -,
- the creation of 4no disabled parking spaces split between Don Street and Main Street
- an extension of the town centre 20mph zone to include Don Street, The Statutes and Main Street (from Westgate to New York Way)-,
- amendments to the kerblines of The Statutes and Don Street to reduce the crossing widths for pedestrians-,
- amendments to the existing Imprint surfacing on Main Street to form a gateway feature tied into the start of 20mph zone and also the introduction of an Imprint surface on side road entrances at Don Street and Market Street
- new enhanced paving materials along parts of Main Street.

Whilst there is a risk with any reduction in speed limits that the required reduced speeds will not be achieved, we consider that implementing the measures stated above will result in a change in the environment to satisfy the guidelines used by the Department for Transport for implementing a 20mph zone such that there is merit in introducing the reduced 20mph speed limit as proposed.

As part of the statutory requirements for implementing a speed limit amendment of 30mph to 20mph, South Yorkshire Police were consulted upon the proposal. Following informal discussions with South Yorkshire Police, a formal objection was submitted specifically to the proposed 20mph zone speed limit extension (see appendix A)

As can be seen from a copy of the email objection, South Yorkshire Police are generally supportive of the scheme, however they feel that without additional traffic calming measures along Main Street the speed of vehicles will not be in accordance with the guideline issued by Department for Transport for the proposed speed limit.

We have also given our assurances to South Yorkshire Police that once the scheme is completed a further speed survey will be undertaken and should speeds not be in accordance with the Dft requirements then we shall look to implement further measures to ensure that speeds are commensurate.

8. Finance

The recommended scheme is expected to cost £350,000 and funding is available from the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Capital Programme for 2013/2014.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Should speeds not be commensurate with the proposed 20mph then further measures will be required resulting in additional costs.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposed scheme is in line with objectives set out in the Sheffield City Region Transport Strategy, and the associated Safer Roads and Casualty Reduction strategy for improving road safety.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Statutory consultation with the emergency services and Ward members has been undertaken. Plans showing the scheme were also on display in the Library areas of Riverside House in late June and early July and notices advertising the reduction in speed limit were posted on street and in the local newspaper. No further objections were received to the proposals.

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