

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Safe and Attractive Neighbourhoods</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> December 2014</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Ravenfield Primary School, Moor Lane North Proposed trial of a part-time 20mph speed limit Ward 14 (Silverwood Ward)</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Economic and Development Services</b>

**5. Summary**

To report a proposal to trial an advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit outside Ravenfield Primary School, Moor Lane North, Ravenfield.

**6. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that Cabinet Member resolves that:**

- i) authority be given for the detailed design to be carried out and, subject to no objections being received, for the scheme to be implemented as a trial;**
  - ii) the scheme be funded from the Council's 2014/15 Capital Programme for converting existing traffic calmed areas to 20 mph.**
  - iii) following an initial 6 months of operation that the effectiveness of the advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit be reviewed in order to inform the potential further use of this type of scheme.**
-

## 7. Proposals and Details

During October this year a meeting was held between council officers and John Healey MP about concerns being expressed by the parents of children who attend Ravenfield School in relation to the speed of vehicles along Moor Lane North during pupil arrival and leaving times. Moor Lane North is currently subject to a 40mph speed limit. These concerns were also being expressed by staff at the school.

Following a revision to the Department for Transport's guidance relating to the setting of local speed limits in 2013, traffic authorities in England were given special authorisation to place advisory part-time 20mph speed limit signs, with flashing school warning lights on roads that are not suitable for a full-time 20mph zone or limit, and a decision was made to investigate this as a possible option for use on Moor Lane North.

The Council's policy on 20 mph Speed Limits was endorsed by Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> January this year. It states:

*"Variable 20 mph speed limits can be introduced that apply only at certain times of day. These are particularly relevant where for example a school is located on a road that is not suitable for a full-time 20 mph zone or limit, such as a major through road. To indicate these limits, variable message signs have to be used."*

There are currently no schemes of this type in Rotherham, and the reliability of the signs required can be an issue in some situations, and the effect on speeds may not be great. However, as it is considered that as Moor Lane North would be unsuitable for a permanent 20 mph speed limit we recommend that a trial of an advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit is undertaken.

The scheme would involve the installation of new signing on both approaches to Ravenfield Primary School indicating a maximum speed of 20 mph when lights show. This speed limit will be of an advisory nature and will not require a Traffic Regulation Order to be processed prior to implemented, allowing the measures to be installed within a relatively short timescale.

Each sign installation will include one set of flashing amber warning lights activated during the morning and afternoon pupil arrival and leaving times to indicate the reduced speed limit and increase motorist awareness of pedestrians in the area. Appendix A attached shows the approximate location of the proposed signs together with an example of the permitted signing.

Previous assessments of this site by officers during pupil arrival and leaving times have indicated that existing vehicle speeds outside the school are relatively low due to the narrow width of the carriageway, the presence of parked vehicles, and the different vehicle manoeuvres taking place. As a consequence, the overall effect of these works on reducing vehicle speeds is likely to be lessened, compared to other locations around the borough, where there is a greater free-flow of vehicles.

As this will be the first time that an advisory part-time 20 mph speed limit will have been used in Rotherham, following the first 6 months of operation the effectiveness of the scheme will be reviewed. In order to accurately determine the effect of this scheme on reducing vehicle speeds, arrangements have been put in place for a 7

---

day speed survey to be undertaken prior to any works being implemented. This would be followed up by further surveys once the scheme has been in place for a period of time. The review will also include feedback from the school and other interested parties and will be used to inform whether the works have been a success, or not, and wider use at other potential sites.

## **8. Finance**

Funding for the proposed scheme will come from the Council's 2014/15 Capital Programme for converting existing traffic-calmed areas to 20 mph and is estimated to cost £3,500, including amendments to the existing signing.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Consultations are currently taking place with Local Ward Members and Ravenfield Parish Council with regard to this scheme, the outcome of which should be received by the end of November this year. Should any objections be received they will be reported verbally to the meeting.

In addition, we have also been made aware of a petition that has been set up in relation to reducing the speed limit outside Ravenfield School, and this may have a bearing on the proposed works. This petition will be reported to Cabinet Member separately.

This type of scheme will be the first for Rotherham; therefore, its effectiveness in achieving a reduction in vehicle speeds over time is unknown. However, speed surveys will be undertaken both pre and post scheme implementation. The implementation of this scheme could potentially result in a number of other requests from around the borough. Additionally, this type of scheme will not be suitable for use outside all schools and this will have to be borne in mind when looking at other locations. The review of this trial will be used to determine its appropriateness at other locations in Rotherham.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

The proposed scheme is in line with the Council's objectives of achieving safer roads and encouraging walking and also accords with the Equalities Policy.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

As part of our process for implementing schemes on the highway, consultation letters have been sent to South Yorkshire Police, Local Ward Members and Ravenfield Parish Council regarding the proposals, in which we are seeking their support for implementing the scheme. At the time of submitting this report South Yorkshire Police have confirmed that they have no objections to the proposed scheme. Responses from Local Ward Members and Ravenfield Parish Council are expected in due course. Upon completion of our current consultation, details of our proposals will be discussed with the head teacher for Ravenfield Primary School.

**Contact Name :** *Andrew Lee, Assistant Engineer, Ext. 54489,*  
[andrew.lee@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.lee@rotherham.gov.uk)

---