

REPORT: Executive Board

DATE: 12 December 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Objections to Proposed 20mph Speed Limits, Halton Castle Ward

WARDS: Halton Castle

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report on objections that have been received following public consultation on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order to introduce 20mph speed limits on roads within the Halton Castle ward. A plan of the area affected is shown on Appendix 'A' and the proposals are set out in Appendix 'B'.
- 1.2 The report was considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (E&UR PPB) on 11th September 2013, who supported the recommendations listed in 2.1 below.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That

- 1) notice be given of the Council's intention to introduce an Order to implement a 20mph speed limit on those roads listed in the Appendix 'B'; and
- 2) the objectors be notified accordingly.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Under delegated powers and after consultation with the ward councillors, the Executive Board Member – Transportation and Cheshire Police, the Operational Director (Policy, Planning & Transportation) issued approval on 28 May 2013 to advertise a proposal to implement a 20mph speed limit over most of the residential areas of Halton Castle ward. The roads affected are set out in Appendix 'B'.
- 3.2 The purpose of 20mph speed limits is to encourage lower driving speeds and create a safer environment for vulnerable road users in essentially residential areas, redressing the balance between people and traffic. The introduction of 20mph areas is encouraged by national government.
- 3.3 However, prior to that during the Autumn of 2011, at the request of the Castlefields Implementation Group, an earlier consultation exercise was carried out with Halton Castle ward residents concerning the introduction of 20mph zones. Over the complete consultation area, the vast majority of respondents (87%) were in favour of the introduction of 20mph speed limits on a large scale within the Castlefields Neighbourhood Area. The overall response rate was reasonable with 507 responses from 1900 letters delivered. After subsequent evaluation of the suitability of Castlefields Avenue North and East for 20mph speed limits with ward members and the Executive Board Member – Transportation, it was decided that these routes are currently more suited to their present 30mph limit but the members expressed a desire to see the

20mph implementation area extended to include The Calvers, The Clough, The Croft and the remainder of the Halton Village area excluding Halton Brow. This can be accomplished with a minimum of extra signing.

3.4 The proposals for 20mph speed limits, as set out in Appendix 'B', moved forward to formal consultation, with approximately 2960 letters being delivered to all households within the ward, in addition to on-street and local newspaper advertising. At the end of the consultation period, two objections had been received and these will be available at the meeting. No letters of support were received.

Objection 1, from a resident of Chester Close: disagreed with the proposal but did not provide any relevant detailed reasons.

Objection 2, from a resident of Lodge Lane: disagreed with 20mph limits on roads "such as Castlefields Avenue South. . . . as they are main roads and travelling at 20mph is completely unnecessary and impractical."

However, the proposals have the support of ward councillors, the Executive Board member – Transportation and the Castlefields Implementation Group and are in line with national policy. Cheshire Police have been consulted and raised no objections.

3.5 Two residents requested the introduction of 20mph speed limits on Castlefields Avenue East & North as set out in paragraph 3.3 above. These routes are not presently suited to a 20mph limit, although this situation could be reviewed in the future as the continuing regeneration of the neighbourhood may change the character of these two roads.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 It is estimated the speed limit and associated gateway signing would cost in the order of £14,000. These costs will be charged to the Castlefields regeneration project.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The introduction of 20mph speed limits has been shown to reduce the number of collisions on residential roads and reduce the severity of any accident casualties due to a reduction in average speeds. Road safety casualty reduction work is consistent with the policies and approaches incorporated in Halton's current Local Transport Plan.

5.2 There are no other direct social inclusion, sustainability, value for money, legal or crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

By helping to create a safer environment, road safety casualty reduction work assists in the safeguarding of children and young people and in the achievement of accessible services through encouraging walking and cycling.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

A reduction in road casualties will have the direct benefit of releasing health resources and thereby enable funding to be focused on other areas of health care.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The introduction of 20mph speed limits have been shown to reduce the number of collisions on residential roads and reduce the severity of any accident casualties. The reduced speed limit will help to create a safer environment for vulnerable road users and encourage drivers to be more aware of the residential nature of their surroundings.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Halton's Urban Renewal'.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

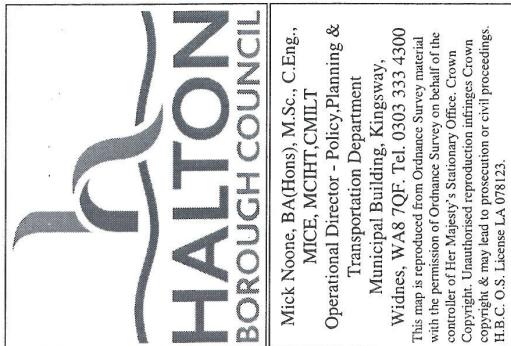
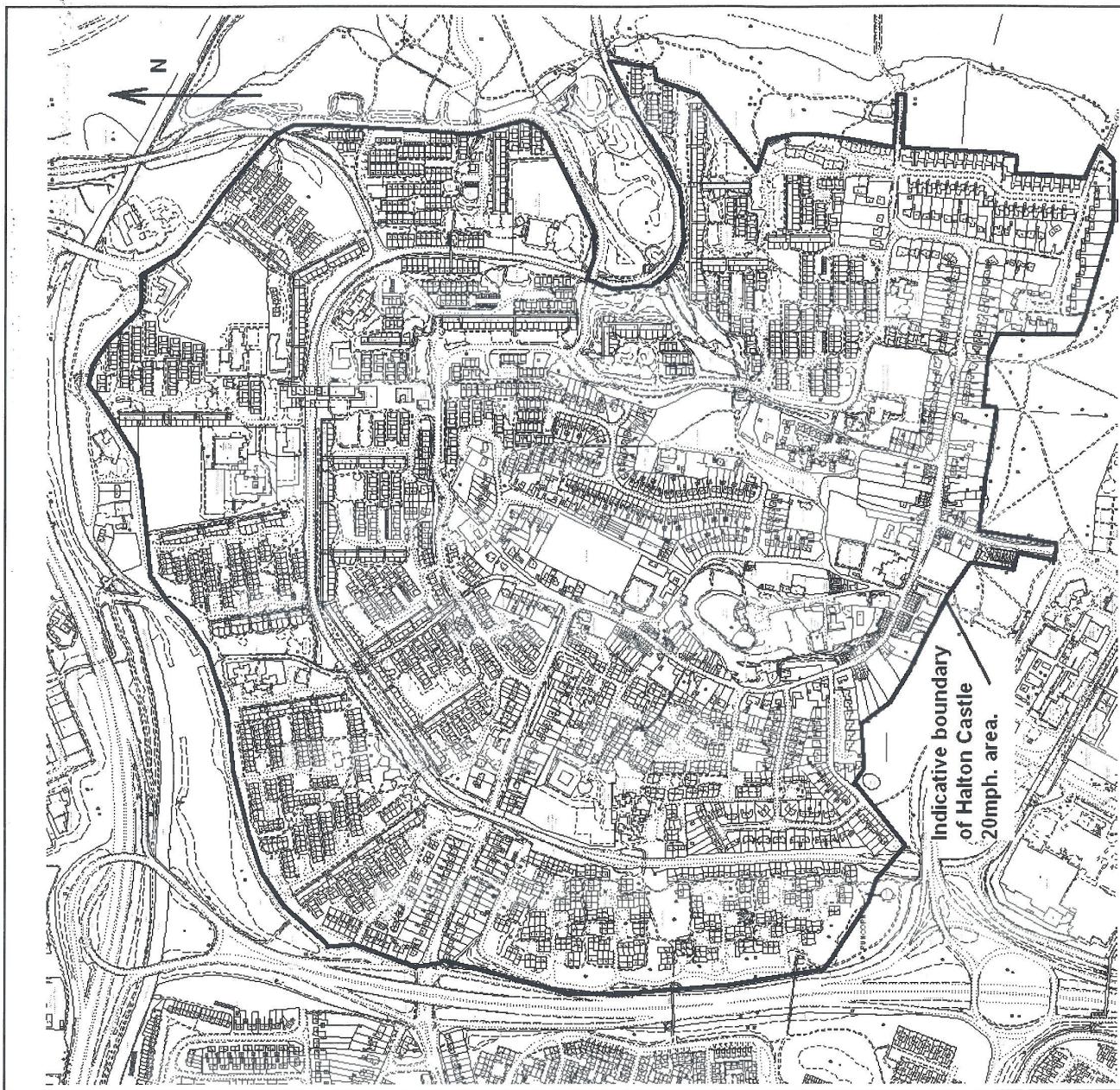
7.1 The introduction of 20mph speed limits has been shown to reduce the number of collisions on residential roads and reduce the severity of any accident casualties. However in some areas of the country this has not been the case. The reduced speed limit will help to create a safer environment for vulnerable road users and encourage drivers to be more aware of the residential nature of their surroundings, which is one of the aims of the regeneration of the Castlefields area. No full risk assessment is required.

8.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 There are no background papers under section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.



Proposed 20mph. Speed Limits, Halton Castle

To cover the following roads:

Castlefields Avenue South, Caesars Close, Centurian Row, Pendennis Court, Shepherds Row, Keepers Walk, Kingshead Close, Waterbridge Mews, De Lacy Row, Plantation Close, Richard Close, Skipton Close, Harlech Grove, Green Bridge Close, Merlin Close, King Arthurs Walk, Camelot Way, Barons Close, Warwick Grove, Limekiln Row, Primrose Court, Meadow Row, Hedge Hey, Convoy Close, Denbigh Court, Constables Close, Chester Close, Beaumaris Way, Rothesay Close, Caernarvon Close, Princes Close, Cornwall Close, Coppice Close, Brereton Close, Woodland Walk, Main Street, Stockham Lane, Norton View, Norton Lane, Holt Lane, Lodge Lane, Riversdale Road, Hollybank Road, The Croft, The Clough, Summer Lane, Summer Close, Spark Lane, The Underway, Castle Road, School Lane, Pump Lane, The Common, St. Mary's Road, Mount Road, Priory Close, Cheshire Drive, The Calvers, Meadowcroft Court, Cannonbury Close & The Brow and excluding Castlefields Avenues East & North, Flavian Court, Roman Close, Warrington Road, Halton Brow & Busway.

Drg. No.: 9108. Scale: NTS. Date: Apr. 2013
Drawn: SJ Checked

Appendix 'B'

Details of Proposed Order

[a] Type: 20mph Speed Limits

[b] Details: The full adopted lengths of the following highways in Runcorn:

Castlefields Avenue South, Caesars Close, Centurion Row, Pendennis Court, Shepherds Row, Keepers Walk, Kingshead Close, Waterbridge Mews, De Lacy Row, Plantation Close, Richard Close, Skipton Close, Harlech Grove, Green Bridge Close, Merlin Close, King Arthurs Walk, Camelot Way, Barons Close, Warwick Grove, Limekiln Row, Primrose Court, Meadow Row, Hedge Hey, Conwy Close, Denbigh Court, Constables Close, Chester Close, Beaumaris Way, Rothesay Close, Caernarvon Close, Princes Close, Cornwall Close, Coppice Close, Brereton Close, Woodland Walk, Main Street, Stockham Lane, Norton View, Norton Lane, Holt Lane, Lodge Lane, Riversdale Road, Hollybank Road, The Croft, The Clough, Summer Lane, Summer Close, Spark Lane, The Underway, Castle Road, School Lane, Pump Lane, The Common, St. Mary's Road, Mount Road, Priory Close, Cheshire Drive, The Calvers, Meadowcroft Court, Cannonbury Close, The Brow .

[c] Associated revocations: None.

[d] Exemptions: Standard.

[e] Statement of Reasons: Speed limit reduction to 20mph. to encourage safer driving and to highlight the residential nature of the roads covered.

[f] Plan: Drg. no. 9108.

[g] Date to be advertised: ASAP.

[h] Date to be effected: ASAP.

[i] Advertising code: 2050 1625 W041 (To be recharged to C.I.G.)