



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director of Place

Report to:	Planning and Regulation Committee
Date:	16 January 2023
Subject:	East Heckington A17 – Proposed 40mph speed limit

Summary:

This report considers a request for the existing 50mph speed limit on the A17, East Heckington, to be reduced to 40mph as shown at Appendix D.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee approves the revised extent of reduction in speed limit proposed at Appendix D, so that the necessary consultation process to bring it into effect may be pursued.

Background

Following a request for a review of the current 50mph speed limit through East Heckington an assessment has been carried out. Speed survey equipment was installed at the three sites identified at Appendix B with the following results:

Site 1 – 46mph; Site 2 – 42mph; Site 3- 46mph

In accordance with the criteria set out in the speed limit policy a borderline case may be identified and is defined within the policy at 4.2 as follows:

4.2 At locations where the mean speed data falls within +/- 3mph of Table 3 (Mean Speeds), then this is classed as a Borderline Case.

Table 3

Mean Speed	Limit
< 33 mph	30 mph
33 – 43 mph	40 mph
>43 mph	50 mph

The report brought to this committee on 7th November last year recommended that the Committee approve a 40mph speed limit for the length shown at Appendix B on the basis that, taking into account the mean speed results at survey sites 1 and 3, the criteria for a Borderline Case are met. The Committee considered the recommendation but were concerned that reducing the speed limit over such an extended length of the A17 would impact negatively on traffic flows, and that vehicle speeds were already largely self-regulating as the mean speed results indicate. However, it was noted that there were various junctions and accesses to small businesses along the road. Members resolved that, as this was a borderline case, further information was required from officers on the nature and number of collisions under the current speed limit, so that a more informed decision on the matter could be made.

Detailed information on the 15 reported injury accidents which have occurred over the last five years on this stretch of the A17 within the 40mph limit originally proposed is provided at Appendix C. As a result of reassessment, a revised proposal shown at Appendix D, which focuses the speed limit reduction around a central area of activity and where a number of collisions have occurred, is proposed.

Conclusion

Approval of a Borderline Case is at the discretion of this Committee and given the comments raised in response to the initial proposal for a 40mph speed limit reduction at this location, the extent of that proposal has been reduced in line with a mean speed of 42mph which allows a 40mph speed limit to be pursued in accordance with policy criteria, and without the need for Committee approval.

Consultation

No formal consultation is required at this stage.

Risks and Impact Analysis

None carried out

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Site location
Appendix B	Original extent of 40mph speed limit proposed and survey locations
Appendix C	Information on road traffic accidents
Appendix D	Revised proposal for 40mph speed limit

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Correspondence; speed survey results	Available on request

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