

TITLE OF REPORT: 20 MPH ZONE/S IN CERTAIN ROADS IN HITCHIN

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING CONTROL

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides further detail and an update to the Area Committee on the potential 20mph Zone/s in certain roads in Hitchin.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not refer to any key decisions and is thus not included within the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the North Hertfordshire Highways (HH) Joint Member Panel (JMP) meeting on the 23 April 2012, a report on the issue of 20mph zone/s in certain roads in Hitchin was presented and discussed (See Appendix A). Members requested that a further report to go to the Hitchin Area Committee meeting on the 31 May.

4. ISSUES

- 4.1 In order to address the concerns previously raised by Hitchin Area Committee and expressed at the recent JMP meeting, this report details the further work on costings for various roads connected together as a group as requested by Cllr David Billing in an email to Roger Flowerday, Lead Area District Manager, Hertfordshire Highways.
- 4.2 The proposed groups and associated estimated costs are as follows:
- Lancaster Road, Lancaster Avenue, York Road, Bunyan Road (not including Fishponds Rd to Nightingale Rd) and Dukes Lane - as a connected group of streets **£13,500;**
 - Florence Street, Alexandra Road, Kings Road - as a connected group of streets **£10,000;**
 - Brampton Park Road, Balmoral Rd - as a connected group of streets **£9,000;**
 - Dacre Road, Radcliffe Road **£9,000;**
 - Whitehurst Avenue, Wilton Road - as a connected group of streets (this was an additional suggestion in the JMP report, although no analysis has been undertaken by HH) **£9,500;**

- As (1), but with the addition of the north end of Ickleford Road * (ie from Dukes Lane), plus Baliol Road (mentioned in the JMP report as a possible addition, although no analysis has been undertaken by HH) **£15,700**;
 - The estimated cost of progressing all the sites, including the additional sites detailed in 6, would be **£32,200**.
- 4.3 In the past, local governance of the discretionary highways service has been achieved through the Highways Joint Member Panels (HJMP) in each of the ten districts and borough areas.
- 4.4 With the inception of Highways Locality Budgets the Local County Member is able to play a pivotal role in the delivery of local needs within the highways service. It will become their responsibility to engage with the local communities which they represent and select the highways works that they wish to be implemented and funded through their allocated budgets.
- 4.5 As the Highway Authority, Hertfordshire County Council still retains its other statutory duties and obligations which are not being delegated to individual Local Members, and there will be no delegation of these general legal responsibilities to the districts and boroughs.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Highway Locality Budget (HLB) Scheme was introduced in 2011/12, as part of the Hertfordshire Local programme.
- 5.2 The basis of the scheme is that Highway Budget is allocated to particular projects following advice from the Local County Councillor/s, who is informed by engagement with the local community and its representatives, including borough, town and parish councils, with Hertfordshire Highway officers providing support on technical, policy, legal issues and budget management.
- 5.3 To summarise the HLB allocation for each County Councillor is effectively to be split into two phases:

Phase 1 – Suggested amount £65,000

- Capital type works (e.g. road resurfacing predominately)
- Early commitment needed for contractual lead-in times
- Benefiting from discount & delivery during summer months

Phase 2 approx £25,000 (residual)

- Revenue type works (Routine Maintenance works e.g. Ditch clearing, White Lining, Tree maintenance)
 - Traffic & Environment/Design (Works previously promoted through the JMP panel)
 - Programmed through year
- 5.4 Area Committees can also consider adding additional funding from their discretionary budget towards match funding schemes agreed by the County Councillor to be taken forward.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Hitchin Area Committee:
- (i) Through County Cllr Ray Shakespeare-Smith forward the views of Hitchin Area Committee regarding match funding for all or any specific roads to have a 20mph speed limit/zone, and
 - (ii) Notes that any decision to implement such schemes with match funding will only be determined at Highways Liaison Meetings.

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix A - Report on 20mph Speed limit in certain roads in Hitchin, JMP Report

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