

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Proposed Traffic Order scheme to extend a 30mph speed limit along the U73012 at Burghill, Herefordshire.
Date of decision:	13 th October 2025
Decision maker:	Chief Operating Officer - Resident Services
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Economy and Environment Scheme – Highways and Transport 75. To act on behalf of the council in respect of the legislation specified in the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.</p> <p>The authorisation limit is within the financial procedure rules and is sufficient for the decision and that the officer has authority under the contract procedure rules.</p>
Ward:	Queenswood.
Consultation:	<p>A Formal (Statutory) Consultation process was undertaken from 16th October 2024 to 6th November 2024, whereby an initial consultation letter and proposal plan was sent to all Statutory Consultees via email. During this process, no objections were raised.</p> <p>However, during this process, the ward Councillor and Parish Council expressed interest extend the speed limit all the way up to the junction with the C1095 and also extend the limit to the junction between the C1103 and A4110. These comments were assessed for feasibility, and it was agreed that the limit could be extended further along the U73012 to encompass the access to the property 'The Steppes'. However, it has been determined that the extension of the village speed limit along the C1103 to its junction with the A4110 is not appropriate at this time.</p> <p>A summary of the responses received during the Formal (Statutory) Consultation process is included as Appendix C.</p> <p>The Notice of Proposal stage allowing the general public and Statutory Consultees to issue comments/concerns was undertaken from 6th March 2025 to 28th March 2025. During this process no objections were raised from the Statutory Consultees nor from members of the public.</p> <p>A summary of the responses received during the Notice of Proposal stage is included as Appendix D. The responses from Statutory Consultees are also summarised below.</p> <p>Ward Councillor – Issued no response to the consultation.</p> <p>Parish Council – Fully supports the proposals.</p> <p>Traffic Management Advisor (TMA), West Mercia Police – Re-affirmed that they have no objection to the proposals.</p> <p>Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service – Raised no objection to the proposals.</p> <p>Road Haulage Association – Issued no response to the consultation.</p> <p>Freight Transport Association – Issued no response to the consultation.</p> <p>West Midlands Ambulance Service – Issued no response to the consultation</p>

<p>Decision made:</p>	<p>Considering no objections have been made as part of the Formal (Statutory) Consultation and Notice of Proposal stages, a new Traffic Order (TO) be introduced under Section 84 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Traffic Management Act 2004, the effect of which will be to implement a 30mph speed limit extension along the U73012 at Burghill.</p> <p>The Proposal Plan is included as Appendix A and the Notice of Proposal documents including a full schedule of the proposals is included as Appendix B.</p>									
<p>Reasons for decision:</p>	<p>The scheme came about as a result of a request made by the Parish Council to extend the 30mph speed limit to encompass the properties on the U73012 which were currently within a National Speed Limit (NSL). Following this, a review of the situation on the site was undertaken by officers and it was decided that details should be entered onto the prioritised Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Waiting List.</p> <p>As a result of its entry onto the TRO Waiting List, this scheme was identified for commencement of investigations in the 2024/2025 Annual Plan. Therefore, Herefordshire Council set about investigating the potential for a new Traffic Order that would necessitate any changes within the area under investigation.</p> <p>During communications with the Parish Council, it was the strong feeling of the Parish Council that the most desirable solution was to implement an extension to the speed limit along the length of the U73012 to its junction with the C1095. Officers informed the Parish Council that speed surveys would be undertaken in the first instance to further analyse the situation in the area pertaining to existing vehicle speeds as well as other points of investigation.</p> <p>Department for Transport's (DfT) 'Setting Local Speed Limits' document lists key factors for consideration during site assessments regarding local speed limits. One of these is the collision history. Five-year collision data was obtained as part of the scheme analysis. From the existing terminals in Burghill on the U73012 to its junction with the C1095, no personal injury collisions were recorded during this period</p> <p>Another key factor in the document for consideration is 'current traffic speeds'. Therefore, as part of the site assessment phase, Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) Surveys were undertaken in order to ascertain the current vehicle speeds throughout the village. Speed data comprising 85th percentile vehicle speeds (mph) are summarised in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 1727 1465 1832"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Northbound</th> <th>Southbound</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>U73012 (Northernmost)</td> <td>35.6</td> <td>34.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U73012 (Southernmost)</td> <td>36.4</td> <td>36.2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The speed surveys demonstrate that 85th percentile speeds are generally above the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guideline intervention level of 35mph for a 30mph speed limit. However, the speeds significantly below the threshold for intervention in a National Speed Limit suggesting a high level of compliance with the current speed limit and an indication that the road geometry together with the environment would naturally receive a speed limit of 30mph.</p>		Northbound	Southbound	U73012 (Northernmost)	35.6	34.5	U73012 (Southernmost)	36.4	36.2
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Another point of guidance when considering a lower speed limit set out in Department for Transport's (DfT) 'Setting Local Speed Limits' document is that the speed limit change should occur where there is a significant change in the environment to maximise their effectiveness in reducing speeds. Currently, there are four properties situated immediately outside the current 30mph limit for Burghill and then a further three properties as you travel closer to the C1095. Therefore, as these properties are located only 370m outside the current 'village entry' point, it would be appropriate to extend the speed limit to encompass these properties.

Having completed the initial assessment, a set of proposals were designed by officers to initiate the TRO process.

Formal (Statutory) Consultation process was undertaken from 16th October 2024 to 6th November 2024, whereby an initial consultation letter and proposal plan were sent to all Statutory Consultees via email. During this process, no objections were raised.

However, during this process, the ward Councillor and Parish Council expressed interest extend the speed limit all the way up to the junction with the C1095 and also extend the limit to the junction between the C1103 and A4110. These comments were assessed for feasibility, and it was agreed that the limit could be extended further along the U73012 to encompass the access to the property 'The Steppes'. However, it has been determined that the extension of the village speed limit along the C1103 to its junction with the A4110 is not appropriate at this time. A key factor in establishing speed limits is the roadside environment, which provides motorists with context for the designated speed. Setting limits at inappropriate levels and over inappropriate lengths may lead to non-compliance and driver frustration, ultimately affecting safety. The current terminal point at the northwest entrance marks a significant transition to a 'village' environment, which has the most substantial impact on drivers. Beyond this point, there is minimal roadside development, and extending the speed limit further would not align with the guidance set forth by the DfT

A summary of the responses received during the Formal (Statutory) Consultation process is included as Appendix C.

The Notice of Proposal stage allowing the general public and Statutory Consultees to issue comments/concerns was undertaken from 6th March 2025 to 28th March 2025. During this process no objections were raised from the Statutory Consultees nor from members of the public.

A summary of the responses received during the Notice of Proposal stage is included as Appendix D.

It is essential that speed limits align with the surrounding environment, as the signage serves to signal significant changes in the area. The Department for Transport (DfT) recommends positioning speed limit terminals at points where the environment undergoes substantial transformation, as this approach is likely to maximise impact and enhance driver compliance.

According to the Road Traffic Regulation Act (RTRA) 1984, it is the duty of a highway authority to 'manage their road network' and 'to improve road safety'. Section 122 of the RTRA 1984 states that local authorities must, so far as is practicable, exercise their functions under the RTRA so as to 'secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic'.

Department for Transport's (DfT) 'Setting Local Speed Limits' guidance states that 'fear of traffic can affect people's quality of life in villages, and it is self-evident that villages should have comparable speed limits to similar

	<p>roads in urban areas. Therefore, it is government policy that a 30mph speed limit should be the norm through villages and their full extents. Therefore, extending the speed limit to encompass the additional properties in the village speed limit would fulfil this guidance.</p> <p>In conclusion, the proposed 30mph speed limit extension aligns with guidance set out by Department for Transport's 'Setting Local Speed Limits' document and the duties set out in Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The proposals are designed to improve road safety and amenities on the U73012 entrance/exit into Burghill.</p> <p>It is recommended to survey vehicle speeds after implementation, to assess the effectiveness of the 30mph speed limit extension.</p> <p>It is, therefore, advised to progress with the recommendations outlined in this report for the reasons set out above.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>Community impact</p> <p>The recommendations outlined above will have a positive impact on the local community. The implementation of the proposed 30mph speed limit will seek to improve road safety and amenity. The proposals are therefore in alignment with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.</p> <p>Environmental Impact</p> <p>Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public, and voluntary sectors, we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.</p> <p>The development of this project has sought to minimise any adverse environmental impact and will actively seek opportunities to improve and enhance environmental performance.</p> <p>The implementation of the proposals should result in improved road safety and amenity and provide an environment where people feel it is safer to walk, cycle or ride throughout the area.</p> <p>Equality duty</p> <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.</p> <p>The recommendations set out in this report are considered to be low impact with regards to equality. The proposals aim to improve road amenity and safety, thus paying regard to the council's duty according to the Equality Act 2010 as set out below.</p> <p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -</p> <p>(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</p>

(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Any impact as a result of the scheme will be equal to all parties.

See Appendix E of this report for Equality Impacts and Needs Assessment (EINA).

Resource implications

The cost of the implementation of the proposals is approximately £6,000. This includes costs for statutory consultation, preparing and making the TRO, signage, road markings and advertising. This cost has been identified from this year's existing budgets in the current Annual Plan.

Legal implications

The introduction of a new Traffic Order under Section 84 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (the 1984 Act) and the Traffic Management Act 2004 (the 2004 Act) will be required.

Part 2 of the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 ("the 1996 Regulations") lays out the procedure prior to making an order. Regulations 6 and 7 require the Council as Highway Authority to undertake a formal consultation on the Traffic Order and publish the proposals. Regulation 8 allows for any person or persons to make objections and requires that the Council, as Highway Authority, consider any objections received after the formal statutory consultation process, (which includes advertising in a local newspaper). A subsequent report will include any such objections or comments, for consideration.

The Council has discretion to amend its original proposals if considered desirable, whether or not in the light of any objections or comments received, as a result of such statutory consultation. If any objections received are accepted, in part or whole, and/or a decision is made to modify the original proposals, if such a modification is considered to be substantial, then steps must be taken for those affected by the proposed modifications to be further consulted in accordance with Regulation 14 of the 1996 Regulations. Following consideration of the consultation responses the Council has decided not to modify the proposals.

The Council has received no Objections. Before the Order can be made it will need to be publicised in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 7 of the 1996 Regulations. This includes publication of a notice of the proposals in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the area where the road which is the subject of the Order is located. This must be done within two years of the date the order is first publicised in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the area where the land to which the Order relates is located. Within 14 days of the order being made it is necessary in accordance with Regulation 17 of the 1996 Regulations to publish a notice of making in a newspaper circulating in the area in which any road or place to which the Order relates is situated.

Once an Order is made by the Council it will need to be publicised in accordance with the requirements of Part 3 of the 1996 Regulations. The Order cannot come into force before the order has been publicised in

	<p>accordance with these requirements. The time period for challenge is three months from the date of the making of the Order.</p> <p>Risk management</p> <p>The Local Transport Plan sets out to reduce the number and severity of casualties on the highway network in Herefordshire and provide a highway network that is safe and efficient. A Key Performance Indicator is contained in this Local Transport Plan and details a locally set target for a reduction in fatal or serious injuries on the highway network. The adoption of the recommendations in this report would contribute to these objectives in the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>It is important for safety, and their effectiveness that speed limits are imposed appropriately having regard to the type of factors considered in this report. This is the case at Leinthall Starks.</p> <p>There is a risk that vehicles may not comply with the new speed limit. However, efforts have been made to ensure the 30mph speed limit is visible through the use of prominent entry signage and frequent repeater signs throughout the limit extension.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Not to make any changes to the current speed limit arrangement – This is not recommended as it would fail to achieve the primary goal of the proposal. The proposals align with Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Additionally, not implementing 30mph speed limit would contradict the wishes of the Parish Council, Local Member, and residents.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Signed..... Date: 13 October 2025

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