

To: Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

On: 27 August 2018

Report by: LEAD OFFICER

Heading: Review of the newly introduced speed limit in Brookfield (A761)

1. Summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 26 August 2017 members of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board agreed an annual programme of activity and that this topic should be taken forward. The former Audit, Scrutiny and Petitions Board agreed to undertake this investigation as part of the 2016 /2017 Annual Programme. However it was not started last year and was continued into this year's programme.
 - 1.2 It is requested that the review considers the appropriateness of the historical reduction in the speed limit to 30mph on a stretch of the A761 going through Brookfield.
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2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to:
 - Approve the scope and purpose of the review;
 - Approve the provisional timescale as outlined in the report;

- Authorise the Lead Officer to contact any organisations or individuals recommended by the Board who may have helpful information and may be potential witnesses;
- Delegate powers to the Lead Officer, in consultation with the Convenor and grant the Convenor of the Board permission to alter the timetable having regard to the availability of evidence and witnesses throughout the course of the review;
- Authorise the Lead Officer to make the necessary arrangements to progress the review within the agreed timescales

3. **Background**

3.1 In 2006 the Scottish Government provided new guidance to Local Authorities regarding the speed limit on roads under their control. The guidance provided a detailed framework for how speed limits should be assessed and imposed. Within this guidance was an instruction for each Local Authority to carry out a “Speed Limit Review” on all A and B class roads by 2011.

3.2 In carrying out this review in 2011 the following information was gathered and considered for all A and B class roads in Renfrewshire:

- Accident records
- Traffic volumes
- Existing mean speeds
- Geographical layout and physical characteristics
- Location and type of existing speed limit

The review identified several locations where the existing speed limit did not meet the framework’s criteria and requested consideration to reducing the speed limit on those locations. The review did identify some locations where a technical evaluation suggested a raised speed limit. At this time Council officers suggested that there was little or no support for raising speed limits and consequently proposed no increased speed limits.

- 3.3 In 2011 the Environment and Infrastructure Policy Board approved, subject to police agreement, a list of speed limit reductions on nine A and B roads. This included the speed limit on a stretch of the A761 being reduced to 30mph that incorporated the section going through Brookfield.

4. Purpose of the Review

- 4.1 The key purpose of this review will be to:

- (1) Consider the 2011 decision made around this speed limit and whether this is still considered suitable.
- (2) If a change to another speed is considered suitable for this finding to be recommended to the appropriate Board.
- (3) Consider any other areas of concern or learning surrounding the decision made around this speed limit.

5. Scope of the review

- 5.1 In relation to the above the focus will be on reviewing the Speed Limit Review which supported the initial decision
- 5.2 The Lead Officer will focus on the key services which are expert in this area. It is anticipated this will predominantly be Environment and Communities Services, which falls within the remit of the Head of Operations & Infrastructure with Police Scotland being the other key agency. The local community should also be represented.
- 5.3 This review will only consider this particular speed limit. No other speed limits fall within the scope of this review.

6. Timetable and Witnesses

- 6.1 It is proposed the review commences following the approval of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board in August 2018. A proposed timetable is appended. It is anticipated the issue could be progressed through two or three Board meetings with a final draft being submitted for approval on 18 March 2019 and a final report thereafter to Council on 19 May 2019.

- 6.2 From an initial review of circumstances it is suggested a witness from Environment and Communities service, Police Scotland and the local Brookfield community be invited to future meetings to provide information, advice and views. Where suitable witnesses will be asked to provide any written information in advance of any meetings to allow Board members preparation time.

Implications of the Report

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| 1. | Financial | - none |
| 2. | HR & Organisational Development | - none |
| 3. | Community/Council Planning | - none |
| 4. | Legal | - none |
| 5. | Property/Assets | - none |
| 6. | Information Technology | - none |
| 7. | Equality & Human Rights | - none |

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

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| 8. | Health & Safety | - none |
| 9. | Procurement | - none |
| 10. | Risk | - none |
| 11. | Privacy Impact | - none |
| 12. | Cosla Policy Position | - none |

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Appendix 1 Timetable for review of the newly introduced speed limit in Brookfield (A761)

Date of Board Meeting

Stage of Review

5 November 2018	Review commences
21 January 2019	Review continues
18 March 2019	Draft Report to Board
9 May 2019	Final Report to Council