

To: Council

On: 28 February 2019

Report by: Lead Officer on behalf of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board

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

1. Summary

- 1.1 As part of its annual programme the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake a review of a previous Council decision to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph on a specific stretch of the A761 going through Brookfield.
- 1.2 This report provides a summary of the Board's findings. The reports presented to the Board meetings are available as background papers.
- 1.3 The agreed scope of the review was limited to consider only this specific speed limit. In doing so three key groups were consulted. The Council's Environment and Communities service, Police Scotland and Brookfield Community Council.
- 1.4 The conclusion and findings of the review are detailed in Section 4. The key conclusion is that no key group or evidence provided to the review favours a change in the current speed limit. It was therefore proposed that this report and conclusion is taken forward for final consideration and approval by the Council.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the findings and approve the recommendation within this report.

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 class A and B roads. This included the speed limit on the stretch of the A761 going through Brookfield being reduced to 30mph. The original proposal for this review asked whether this reduction was excessive.

- 3.4 Over the last few months the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board met and considered views from the Council's Environment and Communities service, Police Scotland and Brookfield Community Council. Written submissions were also presented by Brookfield Community Council and an Environment and Communities officer. These are within the attached papers.
- 3.5 In summary, the Environment and Communities Council witness advised his service assesses the current speed limit as appropriate and it would not recommend any increase at this time. Police Scotland advised it felt the current speed limit was suitable, has been successfully implemented and it too did not support an increase. Both witnesses noted a reduction in incidents since the implementation of the new speed limit. Accident comparison information was also shared which evidenced a reduction in incidents since the new speed limit was implemented.
- 3.3 The Brookfield Community Council view was unambiguous. It supports the current speed limit and is opposed to any potential increase.
- 3.4 As there were no further questions of further clarification sought it was proposed and agreed that this report is taken forward for final consideration and approval by the Council.

4 **Key Findings**

- 4.1 The key findings of the review were:
- The key stakeholders and interested parties are in unanimous agreement that the speed limit on this particular stretch of road should not be changed. These are the services which have both the authority and technical expertise in this area. Significantly this is also a strongly held view of the local Community Council.
 - There was evidence provided that since the new speed limit's introduction there have been less traffic incidents on this stretch of road.
 - When the speed limit was introduced there were no objections lodged at that time.
 - The Scottish Government recommends that too many changes of speed limit along a route should be avoided to reduce confusion to drivers. The Environment and Communities Service views the 30 mph limit as consistent within the surrounding local road network and Scottish Government guidance.

- Brookfield Community Council highlighted longstanding concerns about poor visibility for vehicles entering and exiting from the village from this road. It is concerned any speed limit increase would heighten the risks to both motorists and pedestrians further.
- There are new and further planned residential developments within the area. As well as potentially increasing both road and pedestrian use this may also lead to an increased use of Merchiston Drive. This Drive feeds onto this specific stretch. This could lead to more vehicles pulling out directly onto this specific stretch of the A761 and slowing down to turn in. This is a previously, mostly unused spot.

5. **Recommendation**

- 5.1 Within its agreed scope, the review did not find any directly involved party or supporting evidence that favours an increase in the speed limit. Therefore, it would suggest the current speed limit is appropriate and no further action is required at this time.
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Implications of the Report

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

List of Background Papers

- (a) Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Speed Limit Report 01
- (b) Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Speed Limit Report 02
- (c) Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Board Speed Limit Report 03

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Children's Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is David Wilson, Social Work Manager, 0141 207 7777

Author;
David Wilson,
Social Work Manager,
0141 207 7777,
david.wilson@renfrewshire.gov.uk