

## Objection Report – Otley Old Road, Bramhope – 40mph Speed Limit

Date: 3 April 2024

Report of: Senior Traffic Engineer

Report to: Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### Brief summary

This report seeks the approval of the Chief Officer Highways & Transportation to consider and taking into account the comments made overrule objections received to a proposed 40mph speed limit on a section of Otley Old Road, Bramhope, specifically between Cookridge Lane and Dean Lane under Leeds City Council (Speed Limit Order) (No.42) Order 2023.

This report provides the context of the project and details the objection received and the response provided by Highways & Transportation to the objectors.

### Recommendations

- a) Note the contents of this report and the objection detailed in Appendix A.
- b) Consider and taking into account the comments made, overrule the objection received to Leeds City Council (Speed Limit Order) (No.42) Order 2023.
- c) Request the City Solicitor to write to the objector informing them of the decision taken and to then make and seal the above Order.

## What is this report about?

- 1 This report details the objection received to an advertised Traffic Regulation Speed Limit Order which sought to introduce a 40mph speed limit on the section of Otley Old Road, Bramhope between Cookridge Lane and Dean Lane. Further, the report requests that while taking into account the comments received, approval is given for this objection to be overruled.
- 2 A project to reduce the speed limit on the aforementioned section of highway from 60mph to 40mph was brought forward in 2023 following concerns raised by residents and Ward Members on behalf of residents regarding the speed of traffic passing local houses, businesses and the road safety implications of these higher speeds.
- 3 A Speed Limit Review carried out using the Setting Local Speed Limits guidance indicated that a lower 50mph or 40mph speed limit would be justified on a road of this character and quality and considering the current mean speeds and adjacent highway development, the lower 40mph speed limit was determined as the most appropriate.
- 4 The scheme was legally advertised from 23 November 2023 to 14 December 2023, inviting representations, during which time one objection was received to the Order and is detailed in Appendix A with the Leeds City Council response.

## What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 By overruling the objections received, Leeds City Council can introduce the lower 40mph speed limit. This will benefit users of Otley Old Road, and residents through shorter stopping distances and greater approach times allowing for safer use of the route overall including junction manoeuvres.
- 6 Leeds City Council adopted in 2023 the Vision Zero ambition, whereby “By 2040 no one will be killed or suffer serious injury on roads in Leeds”. One of the five pillars of the Vision Zero ambition is “Safe Roads” where streets are designed to put the needs of communities first. This project works towards this ambition by noting the road traffic collision history (four collisions classified as “slight” and numerous damage-only collisions detailed to the Council by residents and Police) and seeks to introduce this lower speed limit to reduce and remove the risk of traffic collisions on this section of carriageway.

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 7 As noted in paragraph six, there is an ongoing road traffic collision pattern on Otley Old Road, which shows a continuing health and safety risk to members of the public and residents. This scheme supports the Health and Wellbeing pillar, by seeking to reduce and remove the risk of road traffic collisions, allowing residents and all users of this route to travel more safely.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: Adel & Wharfedale

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 8 Ward Members and Bramhope Parish Council were formally consulted on the proposed 40mph speed limit via email 23 August 2023, with two Ward Members and the Parish Council offering full support towards the proposal.
- 9 Correspondence with local residents and businesses over a three-year period has helped to form these proposals. A letter was sent 23 November 2023 to all local businesses and residents

within the area of the proposed speed limit change, advising of the public advertisement period and inviting representations be made.

10 West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and Yorkshire Ambulance Service were consulted on the proposals 23 August 2023. No objections were received.

### **What are the resource implications?**

11 There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report, with the scheme incorporated within the 2023/24 Traffic Engineering programme of work following approval to carry out the scheme granted 19 October 2023 by the Head of Transport.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

12 Should the objection received be upheld and the reduced speed limit not be introduced, Leeds City Council would not achieve the road safety benefits desired by the local community and evidenced via the road traffic collision data. This may result in the prevention of safer use of this road to all road users. For this reasons, it is recommended that the objections are overruled and the Order be made, sealed and implemented as detailed within this report.

### **What are the legal implications?**

13 The recommendations set out in this report require the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) to consider the objections received during the statutory consultation period before considering whether the Order may be made. This will enable the Council to comply with the requirement of the Road Traffic Act 1984, as well as the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996/2489.

14 All work proposed lies within the framework of highways legislation and national and local standards for design where applicable. All other relevant legislation has also been taken into consideration, including duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (as amended).

15 This report is not eligible for Call-In being in consequence of and in pursuance of a regulatory decision.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

16 Consideration was given to introducing a 50mph speed limit, rather than the 40mph speed limit proposed. This would have also been in line with Setting Local Speed Limits national guidance, however as the current mean speed of traffic sit at 36.9mph, 36.9mph and 37.3mph at three surveyed points, it was clear that the lower 40mph speed limit could be recommended for implementation and would be a safer intervention than a higher 50mph speed limit.

### **How will success be measured?**

17 Annual monitoring of road traffic collision data shall continue to understand any change in collision rates. Post-implementation traffic speed surveys shall also be carried out after a 'bedding-in' period, to understand any change in prevailing speeds along Otley Old Road.

### **What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

18 Should this report be approved, the works shall proceed to implementation with a view to completion in Spring 2024.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – List of objections received and Leeds City Council response.
- Appendix B – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Form.
- Appendix C – Plan of the proposed Speed Limit.

## **Background papers**

- None.