
**Decision Session –
Executive Member for City Strategy**

6 July 2010

Report of the Director of City Strategy

Westminster Road Area Proposed 20mph Speed Limit Objections

Summary

1. This report brings to the attention of the Executive Member for City Strategy the objections received during the formal legal consultation on the 20mph Traffic Regulation Order proposal and requests the Executive Members instructions on how to proceed.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member considers the options outlined in paragraph 7 below.

Reason: Because of the number of objections received to this proposal and the wider issues in this area that have been subject to reports previously.

Background

3. During the initial investigation of traffic issues in the Westminster Road area following the introduction of the Water End cycle scheme the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit was put forward because the existing average vehicle speeds qualified the area for the lower speed limit and there was a logic in consulting local residents on this matter at the same time rather than having to revisit the area at a later date. It was fully acknowledged at the 5th January 2010 meeting that the introduction of a 20mph zone was unlikely to have an impact on the volume of through traffic in the Westminster Road area. An evaluation report on the Water End cycle scheme was considered at the June meeting of this Decision Session.
4. Although there is an initial cost outlay in changing the signs in the area (in the order of £600 to £700), because the new signs do not have to be illuminated and are less susceptible to damage there are ongoing maintenance and power supply cost savings to be gained for the authority that will pay for the scheme within about 5 years.

Consultation

5. The proposed 20mph speed limit was advertised in the local press, on street furniture in the area and details delivered to each property in the affected area. 14 written representations were received (see Annex A, 13 against and 1 in favour) and the common themes of objection together with officers comments are as follows:
 - The proposed speed limit does not tackle the problem of through traffic.
Officer's response – This was not the aim of proposing the 20mph zone.
 - The proposal is a waste of money.

Officer's response – There are longer term on going financial savings achievable for the authority due to reduced electricity costs and reduced signage.

- The proposal is a diversion from the real issues.

Officer's response – The issues raised by residents have been considered at previous meetings and an evaluation report prepared on the Water End scheme. This issue is not directly connected with the Water End scheme and is being considered for the reasons set out in paragraph 3 above.

6. No comments were received from Ward councillors during the consultation process.

Options

7. The options available are:
- A. To implement the proposed 20mph speed limit as advertised.
 - B. To implement a lesser restriction (in this case that would be over a reduced area).
 - C. Take no further action with regards to implementing the 20mph zone.

Corporate Strategy

8. Considering this matter does not impact on the corporate strategy.

Implications

- 9.

Legal	There are no legal implications.
Financial	Because there is no illumination required for the replacement signs there will be an annual cost saving of approximately £125.
Human Resources	There are no HR implications
Crime and Disorder	There are no Crime and Disorder implications
Sustainability	There are no sustainability implications
Equalities	There are no equalities implications
Property	There are no property implications

Risk Management

10. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy there are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

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Report Approved



Date

5/6/2010

Wards Affected: Clifton

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annex A – Précis of representations received during the consultation process