

SUBJECT: Speeding and Road Safety ~ to consider current practice and speeding enforcement (Police representative invited).

MEETING: STONG COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE

DATE: 15th September 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Countywide

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware of petitions occasionally presented to the authority calling for lower speed limits at various routes throughout the county. The wider issues of community concerns about speed limits and speeding generally have also regularly been raised by members of the public, local councils and MCC councillors.
- 1.2 Monmouthshire currently uses the Setting Local Speed Limit guidance to assess speed limits throughout the county along with other national guidance to determine appropriate schemes and measures to address or seek to improve road safety throughout the county. Such schemes are prioritised and are either considered as part of a bid to Welsh Government or added to the Road Safety Strategy forward programme. In some circumstances, and where the costs are relatively low, schemes are delivered using the road safety revenue budget.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members receive a report on current speed management policies and procedures along with enforcement practice and decide what further action, if any, they may wish to take in relation to managing traffic speed in Monmouthshire.
Members will recall that a member working group has previously been established but meetings lapsed. Reconvening a Task and Finish Group to consider the feasibility of a Speed Management Policy for Monmouthshire might be an approach that members will wish to consider. Any policy promoted by the group would need to seek to achieve an appropriate balance between the concerns of the local communities with the practicalities of delivering changes to existing speed limits taking in to account national legislation and policy. The Group may also wish to consider how officers currently assess speed limits and consider whether a specific Monmouthshire CC policy would help to ensure that a more appropriate approach is adopted or whether there are no benefits from moving away from the current method of assessment and practice.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The provision of appropriate speed limits on the highway network has a major bearing on road safety as well as the free flow and efficient movement of traffic throughout the county. Speed limits are assessed based upon national guidance and with speed featuring as a key concern of the local community throughout Monmouthshire it is important that proper consideration is given to how the guidance is applied to the local

highway network and that any future changes to limits strikes an appropriate balance between those wishes of the local community with that of the wider travelling public and businesses with an overriding emphasis on improving or maintaining road safety.

3.2 The Task & Finish Group may wish to consider the following documents and guidelines when developing a Speed Management Policy for Monmouthshire:

- i. National Road Safety Policy: Welsh Government's "Road Safety Delivery Programme; Department for Transport "Tomorrow's Roads, Safer for everyone" and associated performance indicators and targets.
- ii. Monmouthshire CC Policy – Road Safety Strategy, Local Development Plan and Regional Transport Plan
- iii. Guidance: Welsh Government "Setting Local Speed Limit"; Department for Transport "New Manual for Streets" and various Transport Notes on subjects such as 20MPH Zones, Traffic Calming Guidance
- iv. Monmouthshire CC's Community Strategy

3.3 In addition to the above, any future policy will need to seek the views of Gwent Police and other bodies such as the South Wales Trunk Road Authority (SWTRA) and neighbouring authorities. Furthermore, it is important that other factors in addition to speed limits are considered when developing a Speed Management Policy since influences such as Road Safety Education and Training also have a major part to play in delivering such a strategy.

3.4 The committee (possibly through a Task and Finish Group) may wish to make recommendations on the latitude and flexibility of how such a policy should be applied as well as to make suggestions on further consultation which may be beneficial before presenting to the Cabinet Member for approval and adoption as Monmouthshire Speed Management Policy.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

This report provides members with information about current arrangements and seeks a decision about how members might wish to pursue the matter further. Any future resource implication will depend upon any new policies and procedures that members may wish to recommend for adoption by the Council. The development of further reports and draft policies will initially be undertaken by MCC officers so at this stage the demand is upon officer time rather than funding.

5. CONSULTEES:

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

As described in paragraph 3.2 above. Petitions submitted to Council.

7. **SAFEGUARDING:** There are no safeguarding implications arising from this report.

8. FUTURE GENERATIONS AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report provides information about existing policies and procedures as such there are no proposals that would require a FGE assessment. Should proposals come forward at some time in the future then a FGE assessment will be prepared.

8. AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS:

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