



# Northumberland County Council

## **RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY SERVICE DIRECTOR - LOCAL SERVICES**

**Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services**

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### **PROPOSED 20mph SPEED LIMIT, ALNWICK**

**Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To consider a proposal to provide a 20mph speed limit in part of Alnwick Town.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the proposed 20mph speed limit is implemented.

#### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the draft Corporate Plan for 2021-2024:

- 'Enjoying' & 'Connecting' - We will maintain, protect and enhance the environment, prioritising our commitments on climate change. We will deliver high-quality services in all our communities and secure investment in housing and transport across the county.

#### **Key Issues**

- Alnwick Town Council and the local ward Members submitted a 20mph speed limit in parts of Alnwick as a priority for the Local Transport Plan Programme.
- The aim is to achieve slower traffic speeds in the town centre, on residential streets and routes to schools and to encourage walking and cycling.

## Delegated decisions

### Background

1. Alnwick Town Council and the local ward Members submitted a 20mph speed limit in parts of Alnwick as a priority for the Local Transport Plan Programme.
2. The aims of the proposal are:
  - To reduce speeds on town centre shopping streets, improving safety and the environment for pedestrians present in the area.
  - To reduce speeds in residential areas of the town, including many that are inappropriately used as alternatives to through routes, and encouraging through traffic to opt for the main roads into and through the town.
  - To reduce speeds on routes to schools.
  - To encourage more walking and cycling in the town.
  - To support the priorities set out in the Alnwick and Denwick Neighbourhood Plan, which are designed to prioritise pedestrians, reduce conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, and to improve road safety.
3. Guidance on speed limits is set out in 'Setting Local Speed Limits' (DfT Circular 01/2013). It states that traffic authorities are able to introduce 20mph speed limits on:
  - Major streets where there are – or could be - significant numbers of journeys on foot, and/or where pedal cycle movements are an important consideration, and this outweighs the disadvantage of longer journey times for motorised traffic.

This is in addition to

- Residential streets in cities, towns and villages, particularly where the streets are being used by people on foot and on bicycles, there is community support, and the characteristics of the street are suitable.
4. The guidance also states that 20mph speed limits should generally be self-enforcing, i.e. the existing road conditions should lead to average speeds compliant with the limit.
  5. The implementation of 20mph speed limits over a large number of roads should only be considered where average speeds at or below 24mph are already achieved over a number of the roads in the area being considered. Traffic calming measures can be used to achieve this if necessary.
  6. The area proposed to be subject to a 20mph speed limit is shown in Appendix A. It covers the town centre where there are significant numbers of pedestrians present, a number of residential streets, and the main routes to schools. It does not cover the main strategic through roads.

## Delegated decisions

7. Speed data recorded in some of the residential streets showed average speeds of 17.9mph (Prudhoe St), 16.9mph (Green Batt) and 22.3mph (Victoria Terrace), suggesting that compliance is likely to be achieved in the area proposed.
8. The proposal links to existing 20mph speed limits outside schools and covers many of the routes that children use to walk to them.

## Consultation

9. Statutory consultees were informed of the proposal to implement the 20mph speed limit. Only one response was received which was in favour.
10. In addition, the proposed 20mph speed limit was displayed to the public at the Alnwick Forum public engagement event held in Alnwick on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Feedback received from the event was in favour of the proposal.
11. Alnwick Town Council and the local Ward Members support the proposal.

## Conclusion

12. The proposal is considered to comply with guidance because:
  - It applies to streets where there are significant journeys on foot.
  - It applies to residential streets with characteristics that generally lead to slower traffic speeds.
  - Existing average speeds are generally below 24mph.
  - It has community support.
13. It is therefore recommended that the proposed 20mph speed limit is implemented.

## Implications Arising out of the Report

<b>Policy</b>	The proposal is in accordance with relevant guidance.
<b>Finance and value for money</b>	The proposal will be funded via the Local Transport Plan Programme.
<b>Legal</b>	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
<b>Procurement</b>	None
<b>Human</b>	None

## Delegated decisions

<b>Resources</b>	
<b>Property</b>	None
<b>Equalities</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	None
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder</b>	None
<b>Customer Consideration</b>	Statutory consultees have been consulted.
<b>Carbon reduction</b>	None
<b>Wards</b>	Alnwick

### **Background papers:**

File ref: HE2123532

### **Report sign off.**

***Authors must ensure that relevant officers and members have agreed the content of the report:***

	initials
Finance Officer	n/a
Monitoring Officer/Legal	n/a
Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

### **Author and Contact Details**

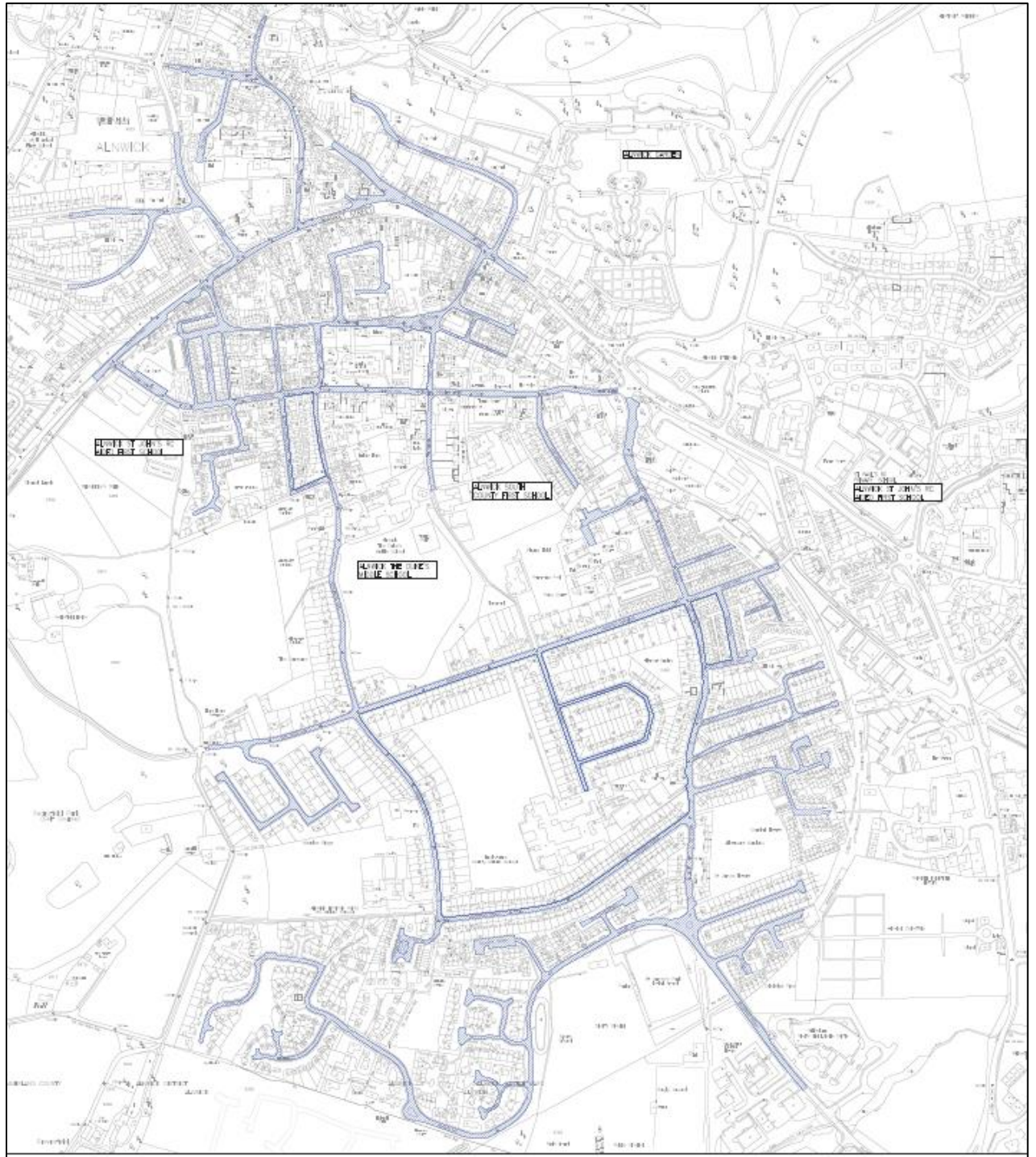
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Report Author ***Richard McKenzie – Senior Programmes Officer***

# Delegated decisions

## Appendix A

### Proposed 20mph Speed Limit



**Delegated decisions**

**DECISION TAKEN**

**Title of Officer(s) and  
Portfolio Holder (where  
appropriate):**

**Paul Jones - Service Director - Local Services**

**Subject:**

**PROPOSED 20mph SPEED LIMIT, ALNWICK**

**Consultation:**

One response in favour.

**Decision Taken:**

The proposed 20mph speed limit should be implemented.

Signature of Director



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**Date**

08.03.23

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