



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Paul Jones

Blackdene, Ashington 20 MPH Zone

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

25th September 2023

Purpose of Report

This report sets out the background to the proposal to introduce a 20 MPH speed limit at Blackdene in Ashington.

Recommendations

It is recommended that a 20 MPH zone at Blackdene is introduced as proposed.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key themes in the Corporate Plan for 2023-26:

‘Thriving Places and Culture – Neighbourhoods are safe, clean and well maintained.’

Key Issues

The County Council has received concerns regarding traffic speeds at the residential estate of Blackdene in Ashington.

The scheme is to be funded by the Local Ward Member through their Members’ Local Improvement Scheme Allowance.

Background

The residential estate at Blackdene consists of no through roads, with the only access being via Wansbeck Road. The estate has minimal traffic calming

Delegated Decision

features in the form of rumble strips and is subject to a 30mph speed limit due to the proximity of street lights.

Concerns have been raised with the local County Councillor regarding vehicles speeding through the estate, which presents road safety issues for pedestrians, cyclists and those navigating through the route with the risk of collisions occurring. With average speeds of 12.66mph, the proposals are in line with the current guidance for introducing 20mph limits.

As a result, a 20 MPH zone is proposed to be introduced in order to alleviate these concerns and covers the full extents of Blackdene, identified below in Figure 1. The measures will consist of relocating the existing regulatory traffic signs on Wansbeck Road to incorporate Blackdene into the existing zone, along with repeater signs within the estate. There will also be additional road markings in the form of roundels to accompany the relocated terminal signs.

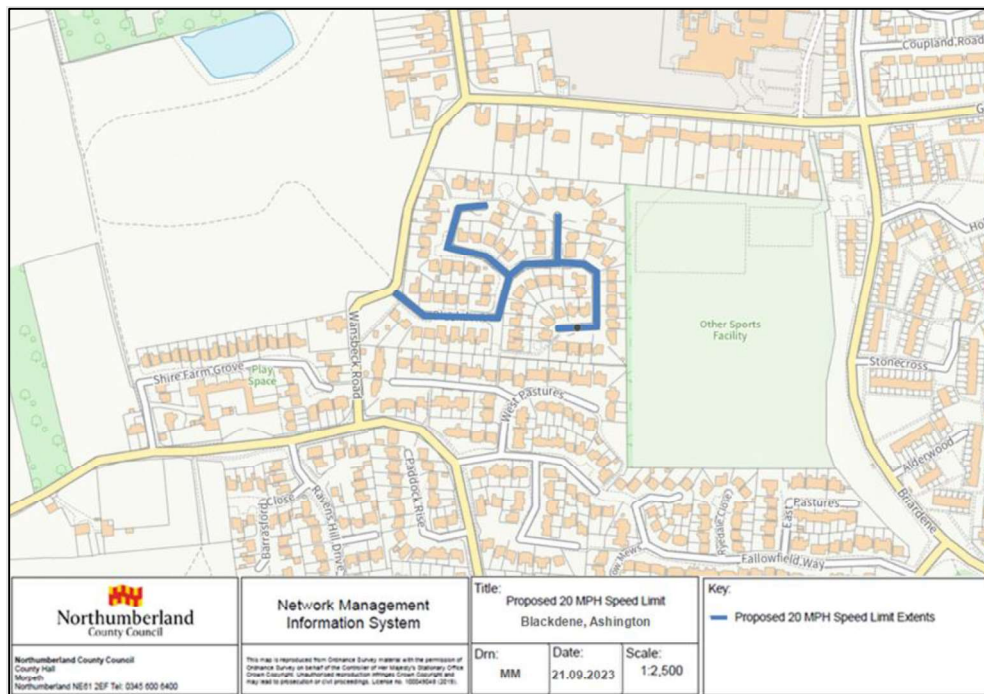


Fig 1: Proposed 20 MPH speed limit extents at Blackdene.

Details of the proposals can be found in Appendix A. They are intended to increase road safety by reducing speed limits and to protect the amenity of the area overall. Northumbria Police, other emergency services and relevant statutory consultees will be notified of these amendments as part of the process for making the permanent Orders.

Delegated Decision

Implications Arising out of the Report.

Policy	Consistent with existing policies
Finance and value for money	Scheme will be financed through the Members' Local Improvement Scheme Allowance
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Orders (reference TROM_297)
Procurement	Signage and road markings to meet Regulations for Traffic Regulation Orders
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Risk Assessment	The proposal is designed to reduce the risks associated with driving at speed
Crime & Disorder	Regulations in place to carry out enforcement
Customer Consideration	A reduction in speed will lead to a safer environment for all road users
Carbon reduction	Speed reduction assists with carbon reduction
Wards	Bothal

Delegated Decision

Appendix Index

Appendix A – Scheme plan

Background Papers:

None

Author and Contact Details

Report Author **Michael McMonagle, Programme Officer**

Delegated Decision

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Officer: Director, Environment and Transport

Subject: Proposed 20 MPH zone at Blackdene, Ashington

Consultation: Not required on the grounds of road safety, however statutory consultees have been informed.

Decision Taken: To introduce a new 20 MPH zone at Blackdene, Ashington

Signature of Director



Date
28th December 2023

Appendix A - Scheme Plan

