



Northumberland

County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Paul Jones - Director of Environment & Transport

PROPOSED 20mph SPEED LIMIT, CORBRIDGE VILLAGE CENTRE

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of Report

To consider a proposal to provide a 20mph speed limit in Corbridge Village Centre.

Recommendations

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

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the following key objectives in the Corporate Plan for 2023-2026:

- 'Tackling Inequalities' - Creating places where there is equity in access to an environment that encourages physical activity and active travel.
- 'Driving Economic Growth' - Introduce measures which make sustainable travel a more attractive, greener, and easy alternative to getting around including cycling and walking.

Key Issues

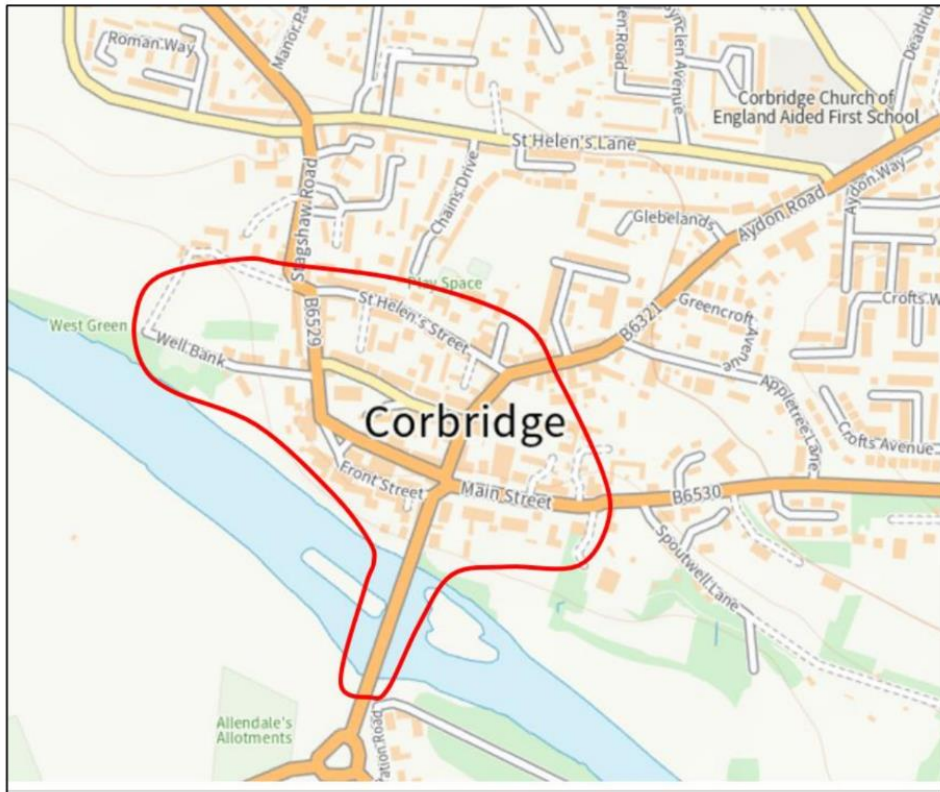
- A 20mph speed limit in Corbridge village centre was submitted as a priority for the Local Transport Plan Programme by Corbridge Parish Council and the local Ward Member.

Delegated decisions

Background

1. A 20mph speed limit in Corbridge village centre was submitted as a priority for the Local Transport Plan Programme by Corbridge Parish Council and the local ward member.
2. The centre of Corbridge consists of narrow streets, parts of which are one-way, with a mixture of residential and commercial properties. There is significant vehicle and pedestrian activity, and the village is popular with visitors. National cycle route 72 (Hadrian's Cycleway) passes through the village centre.
3. Guidance on speed limits set out in "Setting Local Speed Limits" (DfT Circular 01/2013), states that 20mph speed limits can be considered in villages where pedestrian and cycle movements are high.
4. It further states that 20mph speed limits should be self-enforcing. For this reason, signed-only 20mph limits are only considered appropriate where average speeds are 24mph or less. Where average speeds are higher, physical traffic calming measures are required to ensure compliance.
5. Speed data collected in Hill Street and the Market Place recorded average speeds of 10mph and 15.2mph respectively, so a signed-only 20mph limit is appropriate.
6. Statutory consultees were therefore informed of a proposal to implement a 20mph speed limit in the area shown below. The vehicular entrances to this area are all natural 'pinch points' in the network which will assist in speed reduction by forming 'gateways' to the 20mph limit.

Delegated decisions



7. Three responses were received, all were against the 20mph area as proposed and stated that it should cover a wider area. A summary of the responses is shown in Appendix A.
8. Both Corbridge Parish Council and the local Ward Member stated that the 20mph area should be extended to include Stagshaw Road and Aydon Road as far as St Helen's Lane where there is an existing 20mph speed limit in place.
9. Previous investigation into speeding issues on Aydon Road and Stagshaw Road found that the average speeds were in excess of the 24mph threshold (35mph on Aydon Road and 30mph on Stagshaw Road). This means that these roads are not suitable for a signed-only 20mph speed limit and physical traffic calming would be required to reduce speeds. This can be considered separately if it is submitted as a priority for the Local Transport Plan.
10. The 20mph speed limit as proposed is therefore recommended for implementation because:
 - The average speeds are below 24mph so compliance is likely to be achieved.
 - There are natural pinch points at each entry to the 20mph area, further assisting speed reduction.
 - The LTP Request submitted was for a 20mph limit in the "village centre" which this proposal covers.

Implications Arising out of the Report

Delegated decisions

Policy	The proposal is in accordance with relevant guidance.
Finance and value for money	The proposal will be funded via the Local Transport Plan Programme.
Legal	Motorists will be required to comply with the Traffic Regulation Order.
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	None
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Statutory consultees have been consulted.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	Corbridge

Background papers:

File ref: HE223612

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

Delegated decisions

Human Resources	n/a
Procurement	n/a
I.T.	n/a
Director	PJ
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

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

Delegated decisions

Appendix A

Consultation Responses

A G E I N F O R M A T I O N	N E I T H E R	Other Relevant Comments
1		<p>Whilst I fully understand and agree the need for a 20mph limit is vital in Corbridge I do not agree that it should be part of the Village and not encompass the whole village. Consideration of the area around the new development of houses and the extra traffic caused by the above and the first and main schools. Notwithstanding the 20mph on St Helen's Lane although in force should be included and shown on the plan to avoid any Concerns. We are getting a higher percentage of visitors to the village which is not helping the parking issues but I understand is being dealt with as a separate issue the speed limit should be in place throughout the village as it does not make practical sense to have parts at 20mph and other parts at 30mph or plus. This have obviously been put forward by County without much thought to the impact and confusion this will likely cause. I wish you to revisit these plans and amend them accordingly or at least have a discussion with the County Councillor and the Parish Council that requested this to happen before any final decision is made. I for one will be lobbying both.</p>
1		<p>Further to your letter of 6th April regarding the implementation of a 20mp in the Centre of Corbridge, the Parish Council would like to see the zone extended to include the junction of St Helen's Lane with Stagshaw Road and with Aydon Road. St Helen's Lane is already a 20mph zone and the Parish Council felt that including the wider area would provide a contiguous zone. Concerns have been expressed that motorists driving in and out of different zones will be utterly confused and continue to drive at 30mph</p>
1		<p>Speeding has long been a concern in Corbridge and measures to address this were first included in the LTP in 2019/20 for Newcastle and Aydon Roads. Nothing has yet been delivered and so I welcome the proposal to create a 20mph zone in the centre of the village.</p> <p>There is already a 20mph zone running the length of St Helen's Lane and I am concerned that these proposals will create confusion for motorists as they drive in and out of 20pmh zones in the centre of the village. One contiguous zone would be simpler and more effective.</p> <p>This proposal would not slow traffic down in two high priority areas on Newcastle Road (the entrances to Carrsfield and to the Health Centre) and another at the bottom of Aydon Road as it joins Princes Street.</p> <p>The existing proposals cover an area where there it unlikely traffic is travelling at more than 20mph in any case.</p> <p>This has been discussed at a couple of Corbridge Parish Council meetings and the Parish Council were unanimous in their support for a slightly wider area as shown on the attached plan. We'd welcome the opportunity to meet the officer designing the scheme on site and do a walk around. Is this possible?</p>
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Delegated decisions

Delegated decisions

DECISION TAKEN

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

Paul Jones - Director of Environment & Transport

Subject:

**PROPOSED 20mph SPEED LIMIT, CORBRIDGE
VILLAGE CENTRE**

Consultation

Three responses against.

Decision Taken:

The proposed 20mph speed limit should be
implemented.

Signature of Director



Date

25th September 2023
