

Proposed 20mph Speed Limit, Silver Street, Francis Way, Broadway, Manors Way, Francis Court, Weaversfield, Broomfield, Runnacles Street and Walter Way, Silver End

**Forward Plan reference number:** Not Applicable

<b>Report title:</b> Design and advertise 20mph speed limit, Silver Street, Francis Way, Broadway, Manors Way, Francis Court, Weaversfield, Broomfield, Runnacles Street and Walter Way, Silver End	
<b>Report to:</b> Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure	
<b>Report author:</b> Andrew Cook (ECC Director for Highways and Transport)	
<b>Date:</b> 07/01/2020	<b>For:</b> Decision
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<b>County Divisions affected:</b> Witham Northern	

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 For the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure to consider the progression of the 20mph speed limit on the roads listed below. This proposal does not meet Essex County Council's (ECC) criteria under Highways Practice Note (HPN) 040 '20mph Permanent Speed Limits and Zones in Urban and Rural Areas'.

- Francis Way
- Broadway
- Manors Way
- Francis Court
- Weaversfield
- Broomfield
- Runnacles Street
- Walter Way

The only roads that meet the guidance for a 20mph speed limit are Silver Street and Francis Way (S).

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 To agree to proceed with the progression of the 20mph limits in Silver End which will incorporate all of the roads listed in section 1.1 above.

## 3. Summary of issue

3.1 All of the proposed roads listed in section 1.1 currently have a 30mph speed limit in place. Cllr Abbott as the County Member for this Division has requested a 20mph speed limit due to the significant footfall from vulnerable pedestrians in this area. The request has the support of Silver End Parish Council and all members that sit on the Braintree Local Highway Panel.



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3.3 The below table indicates the mean speeds in six different locations throughout the proposed 20mph speed limit.

Site	Location of survey	Speed Limit	Mean average speed	Volume of traffic
1	Broadway, 60m S of Silver St	30	23.3mph	11,189
2	Silver Street, 160m E of Broadway	30	24.3mph	10,137
3	The Broadway, LC04, adj. Valentine Hse, 75m N of j/w Francis Way	30	21.2mph	13,168
4	Francis Way (S), 70m S of j/w Silver St	30	24mph	4,482
5	Francis Way (N), LC16, 30m S of j/w Francis Ct / Runnacles St	30	19.7mph	2258
6	Runnacles St, 35m W of j/w Walter Way	30	19.5mph	2268

3.4 Under HPN 040, 20mph Permanent Speed Limits and Zones in Urban and Rural Areas ("The Policy") speed limit reductions are not recommended in local roads where the speeds are already low. However, the Local County Member for the area has strongly supported the speed reduction and has expressed their wish for the proposed scheme to continue for formal consideration and ultimately implementation. In support of this, it is noted that the roads are residential and used by children on their way to and from Silver End Primary school, the shops and the recreational area.

3.5 The recorded mean speeds indicate that a 20mph limit would be within The Policy on Silver Street and Francis Way (S). All other locations were outside of the The Policy because all other speeds were below 24mph.

3.6 It should be noted that the introduction of a 20mph limit is unlikely to have a significant impact on vehicle speeds at this location, as the recorded mean speeds are already fairly low.

3.7 In order to take the proposed scheme forward, ECC is required to formally advertise the proposals. In doing so, ECC could receive comments or objections from members of the public. Should this occur, ECC will duly consider the responses it receives, and will bring a further report to the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure to formally consider the options and decide on whether the proposed scheme should be implemented.

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## **4. Options**

### **4.1 Agree to start the formal advertising process for the 20mph Limits on all roads**

Although the proposed scheme is outside the parameters of ECC's policy, the introduction of the proposed scheme will allow residents walking to school to feel safe therefore assisting in the strategic aim of ECC to help create great places for residents to grow up, live and work. The speeds are already low so the risk that the new speed limit will be exceeded is low. The residents and County Member are in support of the proposed scheme and therefore this is the recommended option.

### **4.2 Option 2 – Abandon the scheme**

This option would not have any impact on vehicle speeds within this estate, as no changes would be implemented. However, as it is not expected that option 1 will have a significant impact on vehicle speeds within the estate, this option will prevent additional maintenance liabilities being added to the highway network. It would also help to avoid setting a precedence for 20mph limits on residential roads.

## **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 If the recommendations in this report are approved by the Cabinet Member, the proposed 20mph limit will be subject to statutory consultation. If objections are received to the proposals, then a subsequent Cabinet Member Decision will be required to determine whether the proposals can proceed to installation. However, if there are no objections to the consultation then Braintree Local Highways Panel can consider funding the implementation of the Proposal within 2020/21 financial year.

## **6. Issues for consideration**

### **6.1 Financial implications**

- 6.1.1 The design and advertising of this proposal will be funded from the Braintree Local Highways Panel 2021/22 budget, with an estimated cost of **£10,000**

### **6.2 Legal implications**

- 6.2.1 The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 gives the Council a statutory duty to exercise its traffic functions to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic of all kinds, including pedestrians and to provide suitable and adequate parking facilities. So far as practical the council is also required to have regard to:

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- (a) the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises;
- (b) the effect on the amenities of any locality affected so as to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run;
- (c) the importance of facilitating the passage of buses and their passengers.

6.2.2 Justifiable speed limits assist with the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic and pedestrians.

## **7. Equality and Diversity implications**

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions.

The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

7.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).

7.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic. The equality impact assessment can be found in Appendix 1.

## **8. List of appendices**

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment.

## **9. List of Background papers**

Speed Surveys  
HPN 040

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<b>I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure</b>	08/07/2020

**In consultation with:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Director Highways and Transportation</b>	24/06/2020
<b>Andrew Cook</b>	
<b>Executive Director for Corporate and Customer Services (S151 Officer)</b>	Consent not needed
<b>Nicole Wood</b>	
<b>Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)</b>	Consent not needed
<b>Paul Turner</b>	
<b>Head of Network and Safety/Traffic Manager</b>	13/02/2020
<b>Liz Burr</b>	
<b>Head of Design</b>	13/02/2020
<b>Vicky Presland</b>	