

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Petitions Committee

6 November 2015

Report title	Wobaston Road Corridor Improvements – Safety Barrier Request	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Peter Bilson City Assets	
Wards affected	Bushbury North	
Accountable director	Nick Edwards, City Assets	
Originating service	Transportation	
Accountable employee(s)	Ian Hipkiss Tel Email	Section Leader Network Development 01902 55(4241) Ian.Hipkiss@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	N/A	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Committee is recommended to:

1. Endorse the proposal for a 30mph speed limit in Wobaston Road as detailed in the report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To update Petitions Committee following on from the previous report for Wobaston Road, to advise the results of further investigation and the proposed action as detailed in the report.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In October 2014, the Petitions Committee considered a petition from residents of Winchester Road and Redhurst Drive regarding the request for a barrier to protect their properties from possible damage due to a vehicle collision.
- 2.2 The Committee was advised that the installation of an expensive Road Restraint System was not justified by the risk analysis undertaken. However, it was resolved that alternative approaches to managing the risk should be investigated, including the possibility of incorporating a bund within the landscape area. The results of the investigation are set out below.

3.0 Results of investigation

- 3.1 A review of the design options for a bund has determined that there is insufficient space available to provide for the gradients that would be required to allow safe maintenance of the grass banks. In addition, the Council's road safety specialists have expressed concern that a bund would not provide suitable protection and could in fact act as a launch pad and so increase the severity of any vehicle impact.
- 3.2 As an alternative approach, consideration has been given to a reduction of the speed limit on Wobaston Road to 30mph. The speed limit on most of Wobaston Road is currently 40mph. The proposed 30mph speed limit would apply to the section from The Droveaway to Vine Island and would include both roundabouts. It is believed that this speed limit reduction would reduce both the likelihood and severity of any vehicle impact.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The Wobaston Road project is funded primarily from Department for Transport (DfT) grant via the Local Pinch Point Fund, with a local contribution from the Council's Integrated Transport programme. The DfT grant is a cash limited sum and any additional expenditure on the project must therefore be funded from the Council's budgets.
- 4.2 There is no funding identified within the Wobaston Road project for the implementation of a 30 mph speed limit. The cost of implementing a 30 mph speed limit at this location is estimated at £8,000. These costs can be accommodated from within the approved Transportation capital programme budget for Minor Highway Improvements.
- 4.3 The Minor Highway Improvements programme is developed using a prioritisation process and a 30 mph speed limit at Wobaston Road may result in delay or cancellation of other Minor Highway Improvement projects elsewhere. [TT/27102015/R]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The Council as a local traffic authority under the Traffic Management Act 2004, has a general duty to manage the road network, otherwise there are no direct legal implications arising from this report. [RB/26102015/E]

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no specific equalities implications associated with this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 This report has no environmental implications.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

- 10.1 Wobaston Road Corridor Improvements, Safety Barrier Request – Report to Petitions Committee, 24 October 2014.