

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Committee 9th November 2006

Report Title Review of Speed Management Strategy

Summary This report summarises the outcomes of the Members' Seminar held following the publication of Circular 1/06 Setting Local Speed Limits. It recommends that officers now produce a draft Speed Management Strategy for consideration by this Committee and ultimately Cabinet.

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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? Yes/No

Background Papers None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:- *Details to be specified*

Other Committees

Local Member(s)
(With brief comments, if appropriate)

Other Elected Members Councillor K Browne)
Councillor Mrs E Goode) for information
Councillor Mrs J Lea)

Cabinet Member Councillor M Heatley – for information
(Reports to The Cabinet, to be cleared with appropriate Cabinet Member)

Chief Executive

Legal A Belcher - agreed

Finance

- Other Chief Officers
- District Councils
- Health Authority
- Police
- Other Bodies/Individuals Seminar - 21st September 2006

FINAL DECISION **YES/NO** (*If 'No' complete Suggested Next Steps*)

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS :

Details to be specified

- Further consideration by this Committee Draft Speed Management Strategy to be submitted for consideration.
- To Council
- To Cabinet Draft Speed Management Strategy to be submitted for approval in due course after consideration by this Committee.
- To an O & S Committee
- To an Area Committee
- Further Consultation

**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee -
9th November 2006**

Review of Speed Management

**Report of the Strategic Director for
Environment and Economy**

Recommendation

That a draft Speed Management Strategy be prepared for consideration by this Committee and ultimately by Cabinet taking into account:-

1. DfT Circular 1/2006.
2. Warwickshire Final Local Transport Plan 2006.
3. The views expressed at the Speed Management Seminar.
4. The views expressed at this meeting of the Committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In February 2005 Cabinet decided that when the Government issued new guidance on speed limits the Council should review its Speed Management Strategy. This guidance was published in August 2006 as Circular 1/2006, Setting Local Speed Limits.
- 1.2 A key difference between the new Circular and existing guidance is the increased emphasis on taking into account community issues when considering speed limits.
- 1.3 The new Circular also asks the Council to review the speed limits on all its A and B roads, and to implement any necessary changes by 2011. It is proposed to commence the review once the Speed Management Strategy is approved. The rate at which the changes can be implemented will depend on the budget the Council allocates for this purpose. The Speed Management Strategy will need to include a method to determine the priority order for carrying out and for implementing the review.
- 1.4 In April 2006 Cabinet agreed to hold a Speed Management Seminar for all Members of the County Council and representatives of other councils.

2. The Seminar

- 2.1 The seminar was held on 21st September 2006 and attended by 27 County Councillors, 9 Borough and District Councillors and 5 Parish Councillors (from the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils (WALC), together with a number of supporting County Council officers.
- 2.2 The object of the Seminar, which was led by an independent facilitator, was to explore the ideas and aspirations of Councillors in Warwickshire with regard to speed management issues. It was not intended that any particular possible schemes would be discussed, nor precise policies determined. It was hoped to obtain an indication of Councillors' views on the possible way forward on the strategies affecting speed management and an understanding of the financial implications of such strategies.
- 2.3 In the first session of the Seminar Councillors were asked to give their views on some of the most frequently asked questions on speed issues.
- 2.4 In the second session Councillors were asked to discuss various scenarios which are encountered on the road (e.g. a village, a rural minor road etc), together with an outline of typical problems, and then to choose from a number of options which one best suited the given situation. Estimated costs were then allocated to the scenarios, which indicated a very high level of costs of providing all of the options across the county.
- 2.5 In the final session on the assumption that only limited funding would be available, Councillors were asked for their views on how the available funding should be prioritised.

3. The Main Issues Arising from the Seminar

- 3.1 The most significant issues were considered to be (not necessarily in order):-
 - (i) The need to apply cost/benefit methods in order to obtain value for money for speed management schemes.
 - (ii) The need to continue education programmes aimed at speeding matters.
 - (iii) Safety must always be a prime factor.
 - (iv) Tackling sites with poor accident records is more important than speeding problems alone.
 - (v) Sound methods of determining priorities for speed management schemes must be used.
 - (vi) Community benefits must be part of any speed management proposals.
 - (vii) Adequate funding must be in place for the speed limit review.
 - (viii) Police enforcement is desirable but not essential.

Plus a number of other important but lesser issues.

3.2 The consensus at the seminar was that any policy aimed at speed management must:-

- (i) Be owned by all.
- (ii) Make people feel safer.
- (iii) Be effective in outcomes.
- (iv) Be logical, transparent, understood and appreciated.
- (v) Be funded adequately.

4. The Next Steps

4.1 At its meeting in April 2006 Cabinet agreed that following the seminar this Committee should consider the issues before making recommendations to Cabinet.

4.2 Although it is hoped Members will be able to give their general views at this meeting, it may be difficult to comment comprehensively without a draft of the strategy itself. It is therefore proposed that officers should now produce a draft strategy for consideration by this Committee so that they can make recommendations to Cabinet.

JOHN DEEGAN
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Warwick

23rd October 2006