

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	19 May 2016
Title:	Future Traffic Management Policy
Reference:	7468
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves a new policy for traffic management schemes, prioritising investigation where injury accidents are currently occurring, to come into effect from 1 June 2016.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the transitional arrangements set out in this report to manage current traffic management schemes at various stages of delivery, and which include traffic management measures.
- 1.3. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport delegates authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to amend and update the District Statements in line with the policy set out in this report.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The number of people injured in road traffic accidents on Hampshire's roads has increased between 2013 and 2014, emphasising the need to prioritise the limited funding available for traffic management to locations where there is the greatest scope to treat the causes of injury accidents, and to focus Hampshire County Council Traffic and Safety resources on casualty reduction with a corresponding reduction in non-safety led traffic management.
- 2.2. The policy to prioritise casualty reduction measures directly responds to the outcome of the County Council's Shaping Hampshire -Spending Review public consultation exercise, which identified a preference to find required savings through significantly reducing work on traffic management schemes which are not led by safety or legal requirements.

- 2.3. Investigating requests for certain traffic management measures is a lengthy process, particularly where public opinion differs on the need for or type and extent of measures. The need to manage resources to deliver services within current financial limits requires a new approach to responding to requests for traffic management schemes.
- 2.4. Significant savings can be achieved by limiting the investigation of requests for traffic management schemes to those that are led by highway safety issues. This approach will appropriately prioritise limited resources while continuing to support the Corporate Strategy of making "Hampshire safer and more secure for all".
- 2.5. The County Council has investigated and implemented a review of speed limits on all A and B roads in Hampshire and has additionally instigated a countywide programme of Village 30 limits which offered villages in Hampshire an equivalent speed limit to urban areas. A pilot programme of 20 mph limits is also underway and an evaluation of its effectiveness will be completed in 2016. Through these programmes, the County Council has undertaken a comprehensive review of speed management in Hampshire, and scaling back speed limit reviews at this time, with an exception for casualty reduction, would not jeopardise road safety, and would provide clear guidance for members of the public, helping to manage expectations.
- 2.6. The County Council has also previously investigated concerns about lorries using roads in many locations in Hampshire, and similarly scaling back investigating environmental restrictions on Heavy Commercial Vehicles and width restrictions, in combination with existing guidance for members of the public, would further help manage expectations.
- 2.7. In March 2016, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport delegated authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make all necessary arrangements to prepare, negotiate, and enter into revised agency arrangements for traffic management with individual District and Borough councils to appropriately prioritise casualty reduction and to achieve financial savings. This report provides part of the context in which those discussions will now take place.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. No change. This option was rejected for a number of reasons as follows. Requests to investigate traffic management measures already outstrip resource capacity. The need to respond to increasing injury accidents on Hampshire roads and to manage resources to deliver services within current financial constraints further limits the County Council's capacity to investigate such requests, and without a new approach, public expectations will increasingly be less likely to be met.
- 3.2. Stop all traffic management work. This is not recommended as it would include casualty reduction schemes.

4. Conflicts of interest:

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

I thank Cllr Simpson and Cllr Bennison for coming along to my Decision Day and for their contribution, which I carefully considered, but concluded that the substantive issues were fully addressed by the proposed policy approach.

Approved by:	Date:
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Executive Member for Environment and Transport Councillor Rob Humby	