WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SPEED LIMITS

40mph Speed Limit – Kineton Road, Southam

STATEMENT OF REASONS

1. BACKGROUND

Warwickshire County Council is proposing to make a Speed Limit Order, pursuant to section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will to be to introduce a 40mph speed limit on a short section of Kineton Road, south of Southam.

As part of the High Speed 2 railway project (HS2), a section of Kineton Road is being realigned, up and over the new railway. Due to the change in vertical alignment, it will be necessary to introduce a lower 40mph speed limit to ensure motorists travel at a safe speed for the reduced forward visibility over the new bridge.

2. PROPOSAL

The existing 40mph speed limit on approach to Southam will be extended by a further 184 metres southwards.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 enables Warwickshire Council to make Orders prohibiting the driving of motor vehicles on a road at a speed exceeding that specified in the Order, or directing that a road on which there is provided a system of street lighting furnished by means of lamps placed not more than 183 metres apart shall become a restricted road (subject to a speed limit of 30 mph) or that it shall cease to be a restricted road.

Speed Limit Orders and Restricted Road Roads remain in force until superseded or revoked.

The Department for Transport's Circular 01/2013 'Setting Local Speed Limits' is the basis for assessments of local speed limits, for developing route management strategies and for developing speed management strategies required as part of the Local Transport Plan process. Circular 01/2013 requires that speed limits should be evidence-led and self-explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. The speed limit should encourage self-compliance and should be seen as the maximum rather than a target speed. Traffic authorities set local speed limits in situations where local needs and conditions suggest a speed limit which is lower than the national speed limit is appropriate.

In deciding whether to make a Traffic Regulation Order, Warwickshire County Council is required to have regard to the matters set out in section 122 of the 1984 Act. Section 122(1) requires the Council to exercise the functions conferred on it by the 1984 Act as (so far as practicable having regard to the matters specified in section 122(2)) to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians), and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway. This requires the Council to weigh up several factors when deciding to proceed with a proposal.

The matters to which the Council must have regard are: -

- the desirability of securing and maintaining reasonable access to premises
- the effect on the amenities of any locality affected and the importance of regulating and restricting the use of roads by heavy commercial vehicles to preserve or improve the amenities of the areas through which the roads run
- the national air quality strategy prepared under section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act 1995
- the importance of facilitating the passage of public service vehicles and of securing the safety and convenience of persons using or desiring to use such vehicles
- and any other matters appearing to the Council to be relevant

Therefore, whilst the overall objective of the Council must be to secure the expeditious convenient and safe movement of vehicular traffic this will sometimes need to give way to the objectives in section 122(2), and a balance must be achieved between the overall objective and the matters set out in section 122(2).

The Council, as the Traffic Authority, is required to have regard to its duty under section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, to manage the local road network to achieve as far as possible:

- securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the local road network; and
- facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the Traffic Authority,
- having had regard to its other obligations, objectives and policies as far as possible.

The Council is required to have regard to its duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in the making of these proposals, and give regard to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and in particular, to the need to:

- remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Thorough consideration was given to the factors set out in Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Section 16 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in proposing this Speed Limit Order.

Thorough consideration was given to the equality's duty of the Council under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

3. SCHEDULE

In the Warwickshire County Council (A425 Warwick – Daventry Road and B4451 Kineton Road, Southam) (40mph Speed Limit) (Variation No. 1 Order 2017 vary the text in item 2 of the schedule to now read:

"2. B4451 Kineton Road, Southam

That length of the B4451 Kineton Road which extends from a point 245 metres south of the centreline of its junction with Westfield Road, in a south-westerly direction, to a point 665 metres south of its junction with Westfield Road"

In the Warwickshire County Council (Various Roads, District of Stratford on Avon) (Speed Limit) Order 2009 vary the text in item 29 of schedule 1 to now read:

"29. B4451 Kineton Road, Deppers Bridge

From a point 60 metres west of its junction with Harbury Road, to a point 899 metres south of its junction with A425 Leamington Road, a distance of 1,488 metres.

4. Existing Order to be varied.

The Warwickshire County Council (A425 Warwick – Daventry Road and B4451 Kineton Road, Southam) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 1999

The Warwickshire County Council (Various Roads, District of Stratford on Avon) (Speed Limit) Order 2009

The Warwickshire County Council (A425 Warwick – Daventry Road and B4451 Kineton Road, Southam) (40mph Speed Limit) (Variation No. 1 Order 2017

5. Plans

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Ends.