

**A184 NEWCASTLE ROAD, FULWELL
OBJECTION TO PROPOSED SPEED DE-RESTRICTION ORDER**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Planning and Highways Committee of an objection that has been received with regard to the introduction of a speed de-restriction Order on the above-mentioned road.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A review of speed limit Orders held by the Council in late 2008, revealed that a speed limit Order could not be located for Newcastle Road west of the Shields Road roundabout, and the speed limit could not be verified.

2.2 The road has been signed as a de-restricted road for many years and traffic is allowed to travel at up to 60 mph.

2.3 There is a system of street lighting along its length, which normally indicates a 30 mph speed limit. However this is at odds with the signing in place and the rural nature of the area through which the road runs, which supports a national speed limit of 60 mph.

2.6 Without a de-restriction Order in place it is not possible for the police to legally enforce the speed limit. It was therefore considered necessary to regularise the speed limit on this road by introducing a new speed limit Order, which would de-restrict the road and lawfully permit traffic to travel at the national speed limit.

2.7 The Council carried out a consultation exercise with statutory bodies and local Ward members. No objections were received and the matter was therefore advertised in the local press and on site.

2.8 One objection was received from a resident who lives on Newcastle Road, on the grounds that the speed limit should be reviewed and that he wanted consideration given for the speed limit to be established at 50 mph.

3.0 CONSIDERATION OF THE OBJECTION

3.1 The purpose of the proposed speed de-restriction Order is to regularise what is currently in existence, which would allow the police to carry out enforcement.

3.2 The objector states that the Council should have reviewed the speed limit with a view to reducing it to 50 mph. However, if the Council did want to reduce the speed limit to 50 mph, it would be necessary to re-consult statutory bodies and providing no objections were received it would necessitate changing the signing along its length, which would lead to additional cost to the Council, whereas regularising the speed limit can be carried out without these additional consultations and costs.

3.3 A review of roads subject to de-restricted speed limits is to be carried out in 2009/10 and it is planned to include the length of Newcastle Road, in question within this review. It is therefore premature to consider whether Newcastle Road should be subject of speed reduction measures and many factors have to be taken into consideration, such as the accident history, local environment, vehicle speeds, volume of traffic and the enforcement measures that may be required.

3.4 There have been two recorded collisions involving minor injuries on this section of road in the last 3 years. One collision happened when one driver braked sharply and a following vehicle collided with its rear, the other occurred at a set of temporary traffic signals when someone ran into the rear of a stationary vehicle.

4.0 THE PROPOSALS

4.1 It is proposed to introduce a de-restriction Order on the A184 Newcastle Road, from a point 102 metres northwest of the Shields Road roundabout to the City boundary, which will regularise the current signed speed limit.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is RECOMMENDED that:-

- (i) the formal objection received during the statutory consultation process from local residents opposed to the introduction of the de-restriction Order be not upheld,
- (ii) the objectors are notified accordingly.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- ### 6.1 Consultation documents
- Decision of Director of Development and Regeneration 18th November 2002
 - Copy of letter of objection dated 5th June 2009.