

**TO:** SWALE JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
**DATE:** 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Review of speed limit along The Broadway, Minster  
**BY:** Transportation and Development Manager – Swale  
**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Summary:** A report on a request by the Local Member to investigate the speed limit on The Broadway, Minster

**Decision Required:** Recommend investigation of existing speed limit

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### **Introduction**

1. The Local Member for Minster Cliffs requests a review of the speed limit on The Broadway, Minster

### **Discussion**

2. Kent Highway Services follows national guidance laid down by the Department for Transport (DfT) in setting speed limits. The details are contained in a DfT document called "Circular Roads 1/2006 Setting Local Speed Limits". This gives guidance on the setting of speed limits and requires that all A and B roads meet the standards in the document by 2011.

An important principle of this guidance is that "*Speed limits should be evidence led, self explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self-compliance and not be seen by drivers as being a target speed at which to drive in all circumstances.*"

Kent Highway Services has established a trial area to the south of Maidstone, and is working with Kent Police to assess the impact of the project. The police have in the past raised concerns and objections regarding the implementation of some lower speed limits, which have produced little or no change in driver behaviour, and in some cases have brought into disrepute previously well observed speed limits.

It is essential to meet the right balance between the needs of local residents and drivers. Implementation of the trial area will take place next year with the rest of the county's A and B roads following on. Until this work is completed changes to speed limits on all other roads cannot be considered except where a lower speed limit is likely to reduce the number of crashes which result in personal injury.

### **Decision Required**

3. The Broadway, Minster is classified a 'C' road with a 40 mph speed limit and does not fall within the current speed limit review. If Members support the recommendation Kent Highway Services can undertake a traffic survey of the road and interrogate the personal injury crash data. If it is recorded that there are speed related crashes and a lower speed limit may reduce them, the Police would then be consulted for their views. If support is received the scheme would be submitted through the PIPKIN process as a bid for funding.  
The bids have to be submitted by the end of May and validation of the highest scoring schemes is made towards the end of the year.

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