

Agenda Item No. 4(c)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**29 September 2015**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**PROPOSALS BY HULLAND WARD PARISH COUNCIL TO ERECT  
VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS ON THE HIGHWAY**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek approval of the Cabinet Member for Hulland Ward Parish Council to erect its own temporary (mobile) vehicle activated signs within the village and to establish whether a similar approach should be adopted in the future across the rest of Derbyshire.

(2) **Information and Analysis** At a meeting of the Derbyshire Dales Local Area Committee on 15 December 2014, Hulland Ward Parish Council questioned the effectiveness of the existing vehicle activated signs situated within the village and requested that the County Council allows it to replace and relocate the signs with its own signs at its own expense. The Parish Council is in favour of Speed Indicator Display (SID) signs which display a reading showing the speed of approaching vehicles. These are not generally used by the County Council, although they are used by some adjoining authorities. The Local Area Committee agreed that this approach should be taken subject to the approval of the Cabinet Member.

The Parish Council is proposing to obtain its own battery powered mobile vehicle activated signs and is seeking permission from the County Council to erect them onto existing street lamps in the highway. The Parish Council would operate three units, moving them between agreed locations fitted with special brackets.

At the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport on 15 May 2012, a report was approved, together with a technical guidance note and associated criteria, on vehicle activated sign provisions in the interests of road safety (Minute No.123/12 refers).

When road safety budgets need to be focused on other, more pressing, collision remedial schemes, requests from Town and Parish Councils to fund signs are welcomed at sites which meet the existing criteria. However, at sites which simply have a speeding problem, rather than a collision history such as

this, requests are usually resisted. The existing vehicle activated signs at Hulland Ward pre-date the agreed criteria, and would not meet the existing criteria of six collisions over a kilometre over three years.

### **Officer Comment**

The County Council is currently looking to develop a "Speed Management Plan". This will propose a protocol for how enquiries and complaints associated with speed are dealt with by the County Council, Derby City Council and Derbyshire Constabulary under the existing umbrella of the Derby and Derbyshire Road Safety Partnership agreement. This will seek to ensure a much more consistent and efficient approach to how these issues are dealt with by Partner organisations. The use of vehicle activated signs will form part of any future Speed Management Plan and the existing criteria will also be reviewed and assessed as part of that process. The use of SID signs will be given consideration and an evaluation of how they compare with many other types of vehicle activated signs on the market.

As the Parish Council has agreed to fund changing the signs, it is felt that this site could be utilised to see how SID signs compare with the existing vehicle activated signs at Hulland Ward. The County Council has information relating to the effectiveness of the existing signs and further monitoring of the new signs could be undertaken. This information could then be used as part of the County Council's future review of vehicle activated signs as part of the Speed Management Plan.

The Parish Council would, however, be required to pay for and take on all future liability for the signs, pay for the removal of the existing signs and enter into associated legal agreements with the County Council.

It is recommended that these signs be an exemption from the agreed criteria and any future similar requests from parishes are dealt with in accordance with the existing criteria, until such a time when a change in criteria may be considered appropriate.

### **Local Member Comments**

Councillor Irene Ratcliffe is in agreement that the signs be changed in Hulland Ward at the request of the Parish Council.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The cost of the SID signs and their on-going maintenance, together with the cost of removing the existing signs would be met by the Parish Council. The cost of the associated speed survey will be met from the 2015 -16 Traffic Management Revenue Budget at approximately £1,000.

(4) **Legal Considerations** Section 72 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 provides that a parish or community council may, with the permission of

the highway authority (and subject to any conditions imposed by that authority) provide or contribute towards the cost of providing on or near a road, a warning of the existence of danger. This includes warnings given by way of any traffic sign, object or device. The terms will be set out in an agreement between the County Council and the Parish Council.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Simon Tranter, extension 38673.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That:

- 8.1 The Cabinet Member approves Hlland Ward Parish Council erecting its own Speed Indicator Display (SID) signs in the highway, subject to them entering into a Section 72 Agreement of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 with the County Council and funding all the necessary work.
- 8.2 The cost of the associated speed survey be met from the 2015 -16 Traffic Management Revenue Budget at approximately £1,000.
- 8.3 The Parish Council be informed accordingly.
- 8.4 All future requests be in accordance with the existing criteria, until any future review of the criteria is undertaken.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director - Economy, Transport and Environment**