



# West Lothian Council

## COUNCIL EXECUTIVE

### PROPOSED CHANGE OF SPEED LIMIT 40 MPH TO 30 MPH ON BALMUIR ROAD, BATHGATE

#### REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

#### **A. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to initiate the statutory procedures to reduce the existing 40 mph speed limit to 30 mph on Balmuir Road, Bathgate. The proposed amendments will facilitate the construction of new development and extend the speed limit to the boundary of the ongoing urban development area in this part of Bathgate.

#### **B. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the council executive approves the initiation of the statutory procedures to promote a traffic order to reduce the existing speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph on Balmuir Road, Bathgate.

#### **C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

<b>I Council Values</b>	Focusing on our customers' needs  Being honest, open and accountable
<b>II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)</b>	Policy - none  Legal – The introduction of a 30mph speed limit will require the promotion of a traffic order in line with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
<b>III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers</b>	None
<b>IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators</b>	None
<b>V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement</b>	The introduction of the 30mph speed limit will support Outcome no. 9.
<b>VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)</b>	Capital works funded by the developer. Maintenance costs relating to the road signage will require to be accommodated in future revenue budgets.

<b>VII Consideration at PDSP</b>	None
<b>VIII Other consultations</b>	Lothian & Borders Police and the local ward members have been consulted.

#### **D. TERMS OF REPORT**

Planning permission Ref: 0128/ARM/08 was granted on 6 January 2010 for the erection of 11 houses on the site of the former Woodthorpe Garden Centre, Balmuir Road Bathgate. Access is proposed to be taken about 5 metres west of the of the former Woodthorpe Garden Centre access onto Balmuir Raod.

The extension to the 30 mph speed limit reflects the ongoing development on this approach to Bathgate and relates to the urban boundary identified in the Finalised West Lothian Local Plan. A location plan is attached which shows the speed limit proposal and the adjacent development areas.

Lothian and Borders Police have been consulted and confirm that they have no issues with the proposed speed limit change.

The local ward members have been consulted and comments received are noted below:

Councillor Boyle made no comments.  
Councillor Walker has no objections to the proposal.

Councillor McGinty is happy with the proposal to change the speed limit and asked that officers consider the need to widen the single footpath between Ballencrieff Mill and Balmuir Avenue as part of the works and include this in the report.

In response to the matter of footpath widening it should be noted that the purpose of this report is to initiate the statutory procedures for the reduction in the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph. The reduced limit is justified to improve road safety as a result of the continuing development in this area of Bathgate.

The development that is funding the speed limit change is not required by planning condition to improve the narrow footway because it was considered at the time of the planning application that the cost was not reasonable for the scale of development proposed. The developer is funding works to complete some footway links around Race Road which will provide pedestrian links from the development site to the existing footway network.

However, as part of the approved development of the Sibcas site (shown on the plan) which is located between Balmuir Road and Easton Road, a footway link will be created that in time will provide access from Balmuir Road at Race Road up to Easton Road, avoiding the need to go along Balmuir Road.

Officers are therefore of the view that it is not appropriate to link the widening of the footway to the proposed 30 mph speed limit.

However, the request for a footway at this location is included on the list of requested schemes held by Transportation.

If the Council Executive approves the recommendation, the traffic order will be advertised and objections invited. Any unresolved objections will then be reported back to the Executive for determination before the order can be confirmed.

**E. CONCLUSION**

The reduction of the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph will further reduce speeds at the start of the extended urban envelope of Bathgate and ensure that the speed limit is appropriate for the mix of pedestrian and vehicle uses in the area.

**F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES**

Planning Approval (Ref: 0128/ARM/10).

Appendices/Attachments: Drawing No. DP/BALMUIR ROAD/1

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