

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 FEBRUARY 2021**

**Question to Cllr David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport**

**By Cllr Charlotte Atkins**

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**Question**

On average, how long does it take for the County Council Highways design team to design a traffic calming scheme involving speed humps to be paid for out of a County Councillor's Divisional Highway Programme?

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**Reply**

The timescales for the design and delivery of traffic calming schemes vary greatly depending on the complexity of the proposed measures; the impact on the local community and key stakeholders; and the detailed design and construction issues that need to be addressed as part of the scheme delivery.

In general, it is traffic calming feasibility reports that are delivered through a councillor's DHP allocation. Traffic calming scheme costs will invariably exceed a councillor's DHP allocation and can cost many tens of thousands of pounds to design, consult and construct.

A feasibility report to consider traffic calming for an area would typically be completed within the financial year it is requested, normally within 6-12 months. The length of time to produce the feasibility report is determined partly by any site surveys that are required to complete the study, for example traffic surveys, pedestrian surveys, topographical surveys; and also by the level of design team resource available to produce the report. The engineers in the design team work on multiple projects concurrently to deliver the Integrated Transport programme across Staffordshire that is circa £8 million per annum. If the feasibility study recommends traffic calming, recommendations need to be agreed, and funding needs to be sought for the estimated scheme costs.

A typical traffic calming scheme timeframe would be as follows:

- Year 1 – complete a feasibility study and produce a report. Agree which recommended measures to take forward. Seek funding for the proposals.
- Year 2 – once funding is in place, carry out the detailed design of the scheme; consult statutory and key stakeholders, the local community and members of the public; construct the scheme on site. Many simpler, less contentious schemes would be completed in the second year.

- Year 3 – for more complex and contentious schemes - continue with detailed design, consultation and construction processes as required.

Turning specifically to Cllr Atkins's DHP request for a feasibility report into traffic calming on Morley Street, Leek, the request to carry out the study was received by the design team on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The report and associated drawings have been completed and, if they haven't already, will be issued to Cllr Atkins shortly. In this instance, the study has taken approximately 3 months from the request to the design team to the issuing of the report.