

05<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.

**TO: THE CHAIRPERSON AND EACH MEMBER OF THE TRANSPORT SPC**

**RE: Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws Review.**

**Dear SPC Members,**

The following motion was passed at the March ordinary meeting of Galway City Council.

*That Galway City Council shall prepare Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, under the Road Traffic Act 2004, to introduce a 30km/h inner speed limit zone. That these bye-laws will be in-keeping with a cohesive approach to transport management in the city, but that they shall be presented as standalone Byelaws to be voted on by Councillors.*

At that meeting, following the passing of the Motion, Mr. McGrath, Chief Executive advised that a Report will be brought to Council regarding the motion passed.

Therefore, it is intended to bring a report to Council in regards to the setting of speed limits.

As I noted at the council meeting, we are supportive of the 30km/h speed limit in the city centre area as this area is within the City Centre Access Network and has a high proportion of vulnerable road users.

I referred to previously the Guidelines for the Setting and Management of Speed Limits in Ireland, and those Guidelines are issued having regard to Section 9 (9) the 2004 Road Traffic Act and that constitutes a direction of the Minister for Transport. A report was presented to this SPC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 on the Guidelines. These guidelines are therefore a statutory document and is mandatory when setting and managing speed limits.

Therefore, as a statutory guideline, the document states that local authorities shall undertake a review of speed limits at least every five years. It is now well over five years since Galway City Council has undertaken and completed a review. We undertook a review in conjunction with TII in 2020 (copy of TII review attached), however the bye-laws were not adopted and therefore the review was not concluded. In undertaking that review, recommendations were made in regards to the appropriate speed limits on public roads in the city and those recommendations were incorporated into the draft bye-laws that went on public consultation and proposed by the Chief Executive to the council in July 2020.

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Council in March and in response to the Notice of Motion, I advised that whilst undertaking the review of speed limits, we have identified speed limits that are not in accordance with the guidelines. The inappropriate speed limits identified are both limits that are inappropriately set too high and speed limits that are inappropriately set too low.

Therefore, it is my advice that a full review of speed limits in the city in accordance with the statutory guidance document should be undertaken.

The advantage of undertaking a full citywide review of speed limits is as follows;

- The review can include for the provision of a 30km/h speed limit within the city centre access network zone area
- It would include the proposed amendments to speed limits on the national Road network in accordance with the review carried out by TII (copy attached)
- It would provide for the provision of appropriate speed limits on roads within the City Council area that are rural in nature, such as the Oranmore Coast Road as discussed at the March council meeting
- It would provide for the provision of 30km/h slow zone speed limits in housing estates areas that are not currently provided for in our current speed limit bye-laws
- It would provide for further amendments to our special speed limit bye-laws on roads where we would propose to provide for a speed limit that is below the current default speed limit of 50km/h. examples of such roads would include
  - Merlin Lane,
  - Ballyloughnane Road,
  - Clybaun Road,
  - Salthill Promenade.

Therefore, as advised by the Chief Executive at the Ordinary March meeting of the Council, it is intended to bring a report back to Council for consideration in relation to the bringing forward of bye-laws for the setting of speed limits in Galway City and we now seek the views of the SPC for inclusion in our report.

Regards

Uinsinn Finn

Senior Engineer

Transport