

**AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO PLACE
SELECT COMMITTEE**

20 JULY 2015

**REPORT OF HEAD OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH &
DEVELOPMENT**

BOUNDARY SIGNS REVIEW

SUMMARY

This report sets out the current position on boundary signs, including work carried out to date, and options to move forward.

BACKGROUND

In 2014, the Department for Transport (DfT) carried out consultation on the proposed revisions to the Traffic Signs Regulation and General Directions (TSRGD). This document details legislative requirements and permitted signs on the highway.

Part of this consultation was to consider 'greater flexibility to the design of boundary signs to enable Authorities to foster a better sense of place, and geographic qualities often associated with particular areas.' To enable this it is proposed that the revised TSRGD includes the ability to sign historic County boundaries.

The Government consultation closed in June 2014 and the consultation response was expected in mid-September. The timetable for the amendment to be put before Parliament was originally February 2015 and implemented from March 2015. The Government's delayed response was published on 6 November 2014, in response to the specific question on introducing signs indicating historic County boundaries, 26% of consultees said yes and 74% said no. Other questions about greater flexibility, designated geographical areas and the use of photographic images were more favourably received. Some felt that it was possible that there may be requests from various Town or Parish Councils to highlight their historic significance, which they felt may be hard to justify. Other respondents did not see indicating historic boundaries as a significant issue and were concerned that this proposal would contribute to unnecessary sign clutter.

The Government response stated: The revised TSRGD will prescribe new boundary signs for historic counties and designated geographical areas and will permit the use of photographic images. The latest update available from the Department for Transport is that there is no current date proposed for the revised document to be laid before Parliament and subsequently implemented.

Boundary Signs Review

A review of current and proposals for Boundary signing has been undertaken following publication of the draft TSRGD. The following table denotes the highway boundary locations with neighbouring Authority areas that have signs identifying the Stockton-on-Tees Borough boundary. This is also indicated on the attached map at Appendix 1.

Sign Location	Boundary Local Authority
A1032 Tees Newport Bridge Approach Road Middlesbrough Road A66 Westbound (Aone+ responsibility) A1130 Acklam Road A174 Parkway Extension B1380 Low Lane	6 signs. Middlesbrough Borough Council
A67 Northbound Seamer Road Weary Bank A19 Northbound at Crathorne - (AutoLink responsibility) Long Lane, Picton Forest Lane B1264 Green Lane	7 signs. North Yorkshire County Council
Aislaby Road A67 Urray Nook Road A66 Eastbound (Aone+ responsibility) Darlington Back Lane Redmarshall Road Mill Lane, Whitton South Street, Old Stillington Mill Lane, Middleton St. George	8 signs. Darlington Borough Council
A689 Eastbound and Westbound A19 Southbound at Wolviston (AutoLink responsibility) A178 Seaton Carew Road	4 signs. Hartlepool Borough Council
A177 Thorpe Larches	1 sign. Durham County Council

In terms of the historical County boundaries sign it is proposed to limit the historic signs to the Counties of Durham and Yorkshire with some suggested sign designs included at Appendix 2. There are other historic name changes affecting the Borough as follows:

- County Borough of Teesside
- Cleveland County
- North Riding of Yorkshire

Clearly, the boundaries for these historic names are different and would amount to a significant number of signs that would lead to street clutter and could be confusing for motorists. It is therefore proposed to consider historic boundary signs of Durham and Yorkshire at the River Tees crossings, as follows:

- Princess of Wales bridge
- Victoria Bridge
- Jubilee Bridge
- Yarm Bridge

There are also two further river crossings that are at the boundary with Middlesbrough that could be considered, these are:

- Transporter Bridge
- Tees (Newport) Bridge

Further river crossings within the Borough that are not part of the Local Highway Network are A66 at Surtees Bridge and A19 Tees Flyover.

Consultation with Middlesbrough Council and Highways England or their Agents would be required to progress any signs on these routes. This has not been carried out to date and it should be noted that Middlesbrough Council may also be reviewing boundary signs in light of the changes to TSRGD that SBC has not been made aware of. There are also potential difficulties in siting signs particularly on A19 and A66 due to site constraints.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Funding for the installation of new boundary signs and maintenance is yet to be determined.

OPTIONS/ACTIONS

Going forward the options are:

- A clear policy is developed in terms of boundary signs permitted within the adopted highway subject to the awaited legislation.
- A clear maintenance policy is developed based on the principle of asset management.
- A protocol is agreed on funding of signs including maintenance.
- Appropriate consultation should be carried out with Middlesbrough Council and Highways England if feasible to introduce signs on the Strategic Road Network

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