

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

20'S PLENTY FOR CHESHIRE EAST

Report Reference ET-23-01
Meeting Date 24th July 2023
Agenda Item 5
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The committee will be receiving a short talk from Diana Davey of *20s Plenty for Cheshire East*, the local branch of the national *20s Plenty for Us* organisation which campaigns for a default speed limit of 20mph on residential streets except those where, after consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users, a higher speed limit can safely be applied. The national campaign is urging town and parish councils to support the campaign for 20mph default limits and to call on the highway authority (Cheshire East Council) to implement the change.

1.2 STRATEGIC PLAN FIT

The council's strategic plan was adopted in June 2023, the committee is determining its action plan for the current civic year at this meeting.

Objective T7 of the strategy is to work with Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Police to reduce speeding. The thrust of this objective is to ensure pedestrians and cyclists feel safe when using roads, linking to the objective to promote active travel. Securing changes to speed limits where appropriate would contribute to the delivery of this objective, as the CEC Speed Management Strategy notes that 20mph limits have been shown to encourage the take up of active travel.

2.0 CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL SPEED MANAGEMENT POLICY

Cheshire East Council adopted a Speed Management Strategy in 2022. Page 26 of the strategy covers 20mph areas stating they can be considered where self-compliance is or can be achieved through the nature of the road layout, the presence of traffic calming features or where a fundamental change in the nature of the road to support it. The strategy notes there are two definitions for 20mph areas:

- Speed limits - implemented with traffic regulation orders, signage and road markings
- Zones – as per limits with the addition of engineering measures to encourage self-compliance

The strategy sets out the borough council's approach to 20mph limits. It states that where existing speeds exceed 24mph, additional traffic calming or technological measures will be required to reduce speeds and that where limits are over 28mph "extensive engineering measures" will need to be considered.

In effect, this means that unless vehicles are more-or-less driving at 20mph the council will not

introduce 20mph limits without costly engineering solutions: it will not introduce 20mph limits as a measure in itself to reduce the speed of traffic on a road.

It should be noted that the *20s Plenty* campaign is significantly different to the recently adopted policy of the borough council.

3.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider the talk from *20's Plenty for Cheshire East*, in particular considering:

- a) Whether to support the *20s Plenty* approach to 20mph limits
- b) If supportive, whether to write to Cheshire East Council outlining the council's support of the campaign and urging it to review its SMS