

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION OF 20MPH SPEED LIMITS



Report Reference ET-23-18
Meeting Date 5th February 2024
Agenda Item 6
Prepared by Town Clerk

1.0 BACKGROUND

At the September committee meeting, the committee agreed a policy of supporting a universal reduction of 30mph limits to 20mph except on [to be determined] roads where it is considered safe to drive at 30mph and that until such policy is adopted by Cheshire East Council to pursue reductions for specific roads, to be determined by the committee.

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.

2.0 SUGGESTED APPROACH

The resolved position of the council is to pursue reductions for specific roads, it will therefore be necessary to determine a priority list to put forward to Cheshire East Council. Subject to the committee's direction, it is suggested:

- a) The committee identifies a list of roads which it considers should be prioritised
- b) The public be invited to put forward roads via local publicity (email, social media and local media)
- c) Data is collected for each road using the council's speed indicator devices to identify roads where 20mph schemes would be supported without engineering solutions
- d) The committee considers the output of this work and agrees proposals to put to Cheshire East Council.

The number of roads to be assessed will influence how quickly this can be completed and each road would be surveyed for one week. Depending on the number of roads put forward an initial sift may need to take place with the committee chairman to determine which roads are surveyed first with an

interim report being considered by the committee.

3.0 DECISION REQUIRED

The committee should:

- a) Consider the suggested approach for determining which roads to put forward to Cheshire East Council for 20mph limits
- b) Identify roads it considers should be appraised