

FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2021

Written question from Mr M Voller from Sandown

As part of its covid response in 2020 the Government indicated that 20mph speed limits are being more widely adopted as an appropriate speed limit for residential roads and through-streets in built up areas.

Streets in town centres and near schools are made safer for pedestrians and cyclists where 20mph limits are adopted. Another benefit of slower traffic is streets become more pleasant and people-friendly, which may help promote the revival of the Island's commerce and tourism as lockdown rules are eased.

What are the Council's plans to implement 20mph zones more widely across the Island?

Response

The matter of 20mph speed limits was recently discussed but the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration; 20mph Speed Limit Task and Finish Group.

The impact of regulations about fitting of speed limiters in new vehicles from 2022 was part of the groups discussions.

An Island wide speed limit review is currently being progressed that will provide data to inform the development of 20mph speed limits and zones. This should be concluded in the Autumn.

The Scrutiny Committee full report is attached and the following recommendations were approved;

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the experiences of other areas, such as Lancashire, Borders Council, Bath and North East Somerset, Sefton, Faversham and Portsmouth, in implementing 20mph speed limits/zones be looked at as part of the proposed review of speed limits.
2. That the review of speed limits should include :-
 - a. An understanding of the potential environmental impacts of 20mph speeds on air quality and carbon emissions as well as noise;
 - b. The potential enhancement of walking and cycling conditions' which 20 mph speeds may bring, together with issues such as health benefits and increased sociability;
 - c. Not be constrained by historical accident statistics in determining 20mph speed limits/zones if an otherwise strong case can be made for the introduction of such a restriction in a specific area;

- d. The ongoing improvements in car technology such as speed limiters.
- 3. THAT the Cabinet Member for Transport and Infrastructure should ensure that funding is made available for the speed limit review to be undertaken during 2021/22.
- 4. THAT a report be submitted to the Policy and Scrutiny Committee on the timeframe for the proposed review of all the relevant plans and strategies that will link into the new Local Transport Plan so that it can have the opportunity of providing input before they are finalised.