

FULL COUNCIL – WEDNESDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2021

Written question from Ms T Mikich from Ryde

The imminent arrival of new technology such as speed limiters on vehicles plus Government policies and associated grant funding to encourage more people to walk and cycle makes the speed limit for vehicles, all the more vital. Moving to a reduced speed limit of 20mph is an essential building block, WHO recommended, in making our towns and villages safer, more attractive and healthier places to walk, cycle and spend time. How is the IWC working with the local communities to implement the 20mph limit in places where people live, learn, shop and work?

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.