

COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

17 November 2021

Briefing Note – Update on 20mph Limit Task and Finish Group Progress

1. The Motion

- 1.1 In July 2021, Council members approved the following motion, “This Council will establish a cross party working group to consider the evidence, cost, impact and/or benefit of 20mph speed limits in residential areas including schools and other sites of wider interest across Warwickshire as part of the Speed Management Strategy refresh and to report the outcome of this work to Cabinet”.
- 1.2 As of the time of this committee meeting, the TFG (task and finish group) have met three times. The group is Chaired by the Portfolio Holder of Transport & Planning (Councillor Wallace Redford) and consists of six members from the Conservative group (including the Chair), one from the Labour group, one from the Liberal Democrat group and one from the Green group.
- 1.3 The group have been supported by the Communities Directorate – Safety Engineering, Strategy & Policy and Minorworks & Forestry. They have also been supported by Warwickshire Police.
- 1.4 The TFG will run no later than early December 2021 in order to be able to present their findings and recommendations to Cabinet in December 2021

2.0 Progress update

- 2.1 The group discussed how effective a 20mph limit would be with drivers, 20mph limits already implemented in Warwickshire, advisory 20mph limit signs outside schools and specific roads that would benefit most from 20mph limits.
- 2.2 The group requested a ‘blanket approach’ assessment for two locations in Warwickshire, New Arley – a small village and Kenilworth – a town. Following the outcome of this assessment, it was agreed that blanket approaches were not worthwhile and more focused targets should be reviewed instead e.g. specific roads.
- 2.3 The group were made aware that they could use their delegated budgets for alternative traffic calming measures (other than 20mph limits) which could resolve issues that their residents had with speeding drivers.
- 2.4 The group were informed, and with supporting guidance from the Department for Transport, that a 20mph limit would only be effective in an area if drivers were already abiding by the speed limit.
- 2.5 The proposed **draft** recommendations from the TFG so far are:
That Cabinet:
1. *Informs all elected members that they can legitimately use their delegated budgets for road safety schemes in their division, including the implementation of 20mph limits where appropriate. This includes the ability for*

members to put their delegated budgets together for larger schemes that would cross divisions.

- 2. Recommend that all member-proposed road safety schemes, including a reduction in speed limits, are reviewed by the safety engineering team first, to assess the effectiveness of the proposed scheme.*
- 3. Allow the road safety team to notify elected members on how they could spend their delegated budgets on road safety measures when appropriate.*
- 4. Recommend that the Safety Engineering Team monitor the success or otherwise of the use of Members Delegated Budget for road safety issues and report back to the working group in February 2023 for a one off meeting.*