

Flintshire County Council - Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny - May 2019.

Title: 20mph Mandatory Speed Limits within Flintshire.

Purpose:

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested a report on the introduction of 20mph zones across the County at their meeting in May 2019. Whilst a report had been prepared, advising Members of current legislation and the restrictions associated with the implementation of blanket 20mph mandatory speed limits, the recent announcement by The First Minister on the matter indicated a change in National Policy and this has rendered the report non applicable.

Background:

Following the recent relaunch in Wales of the '20's Plenty' Campaign, Flintshire County Council, along with many local authorities, are under increasing pressure to implement 20mph as the default speed limit within urban areas of the County. A number of local authorities have responded by the implementation of blanket speed limit Orders following local pressure and there are a number of trial arrangements in place across Wales, which are currently being evaluated, most notably in Cardiff.

Highway Authorities should take account of the level of Police enforcement required before installing such measures and must always formally consult the Police when considering their implementation. As with all speed limits on the highway network, Police resource will not permit the continual presence of an Officer to enforce speeding offences, and therefore, in accordance with the current legislation, it is essential that all 20mph speed limit proposals are self-enforcing, either by means of existing driver behavior (i.e. existing recorded speeds prior to the scheme being implemented) or by means of physical traffic calming measures (or other measures) should existing speeds be above the required threshold level.

The current approach in Flintshire County Council.

Whilst all school's within Flintshire are subject to advisory 20mph speed limits (with the exception of those which are now covered by mandatory speed limits), such speed limits are not enforceable and therefore, have had varying degrees of effectiveness, following their initial implementation. By contrast, those schemes recently implemented in the County under the Welsh Government 'Safer Routes in the Community' initiative are governed by mandatory 20mph speed limits and the outcomes have proven to be very successful.

Future Options

In order for the implementation of 20mph speed limits to be both achievable and affordable, a change to the current National Legislation is required and Welsh Council's will await a decision from the First Minister as to when revised legislation is likely to be implemented.

A further report will be provided to the Scrutiny Committee, once this has been determined.

Anthony Stanford
Transportation and Strategy Manager - April 2019