

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

6 OCTOBER 2020

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| Report Title | Devon County Council Trial 20 mph Speed Limit |
| Purpose of Report | To seek Executive's preliminary support to a proposed trial of a 20mph speed limit in Newton Abbot. |
| Recommendation | It be RESOLVED the Executive express its preliminary support to Devon County Council regarding its proposed trial of a 20 mph speed limit in Newton Abbot. |
| Environmental/ Climate Change Implications | The environmental impacts of the proposed 20 mph limit trial are covered within sections 3.6 to 3.9 of the Traffic Speed Task Group report. The report identifies that there are "complex relationships" between maximum speed limits and air quality and that generalisations should not be made between the two variables due to varying vehicle types, driving styles and road layout. Reduced speed limits may reduce emissions from some vehicle types, whilst increasing emissions from other vehicle types. The benefits of reduced maximum speed limits should be considered in balance between reducing emissions and road noise, and increasing road safety and uptake of sustainable transport options. |
| Report Author and Executive Member | Cllr Jackie Hook, Climate Change |

1. REPORT DETAIL

- 1.1 Traffic speeds are a significant concern to many residents. In response, a Traffic Speeds Task Group was set up at Devon County Council to examine what measures could be taken to address the issue in Devon. The Task Group final report was approved at Cabinet in June 2019:
<https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/documents/s26516/Traffic%20Speed%20Scrutiny%20Task%20Group.pdf>. One of the recommendations was to trial a default residential 20 mph limit in Newton Abbot and Kingskerswell.
- 1.2 A Devon County Council Traffic Speeds Implementation Working Group has been set up to aid implementation of the 20 mph trial and the other report recommendations. This Group has subsequently decided to concentrate the trial on Newton Abbot only, with the agreement of the local County Councillor for Kingskerswell, as it is a separate area and its inclusion would effectively involve trying to manage and resource two separate schemes at once, without any additional benefits in terms of the purpose of the trial. The Implementation Group includes representatives from the Police and Public Health.

- 1.3 Newton Abbot Town Council have expressed their support for the trial 20 mph project at their Full Council meeting on 26th February 2020, resolving “that the Town Council supported in principle the proposed 20 mph speed restrictions for residential areas in Newton Abbot; subject to the opportunity to discuss with Devon County Council in more detail”
- 1.4 The intended implementation timeline is for traffic data collection and surveys, and initial consultation and promotion to take place in the first half of 2021, with formal advertising of the trial taking place late 2021.
- 1.5 The results of the trial will be significant in influencing policy towards other requests received from almost all communities across Devon for lower speed limits. A scheme that included all roads, as already carried out for example in Bristol, Brighton and part of London is highly likely, evidence shows, to result in significant reductions in prevailing speed and Personal Injury Collisions (PICs). The Devon County Council trial will allow the testing of the full potential impact of an area-wide scheme and make the most of the opportunity to learn lessons for future schemes.