

20 MPH SPEED LIMITS

Report of the Task Group (as amended by the Environment, Economy & Culture Overview/Scrutiny Committee)

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Executive be advised that, for the reasons set out at “3.0” below, the introduction of 20mph restrictions (whether part- or full-time) should not be pursued in the vicinity of *all* schools but should only be introduced with reference to schools’ individual circumstances.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The group reconvened on 10 December 2008, following a request by the Executive for clarification of the Committee’s previous recommendations.

- 2.2 At its meeting on 11 November 2008, the Committee considered the Task Group’s report (CX/08/88) and resolved (Minute 176):

that the covering report and the amended task group report be referred to the Executive as the Task Group’s response to resolving the challenges identified by Executive in relation to enforcement of speed limits, related safety issues and promotion of alternative means of achieving the same objectives.

- 2.3 On 25 November, the Executive (Minute 964 refers) considered the report and recommendation and resolved:

- (i) that the additional views of the Task Group be welcomed and endorsed;
- (ii) that the proposed joint statement (Minute 909(c) refers) by the Executive Director for Environment, Economy & Culture and the Chief Constable ... giving guidance to all Town and Parish Councils on the enforcement of 20mph speed limits be prepared and distributed as soon as possible; and
- (iii) that, acknowledging the clarification by the Task Group of its earlier report and recommendations and the views of Members of the desirability of 20mph speed limits being applied in the vicinity of schools (where resources permitted and where specifically identified in School Travel Plans), a proposed revised policy statement be prepared and submitted to a future meeting of the Executive for consideration.

3.0 Further consideration by the Task Group

- 3.1 Pursuant to “(iii)” above the Task Group met on 10 December 2008 to review its previous consideration of speed limits, particularly as they related to the areas around schools. Councillor Margaret Rogers, Executive Member for the Environment, also attended this meeting as an observer.

- 3.2 The Task Group concluded that it was evident that the setting of speed restrictions, especially 20mph limits, was an emotive subject; and this was particularly the case in areas where there was a perceived risk to young people and other specially vulnerable road users, such as outside schools. Nevertheless, speed restrictions should only be introduced where there was a need; otherwise there was the risk that the benefits of more appropriate speed limits would be eroded and the likelihood of non-compliance increased

- 3.3 Part-time speed limits incorporating flashing amber warning signs were currently not an option prescribed in DfT regulations and were therefore unenforceable. Alternatives entailed high financial cost, technically unreliable and could be confusing to highway users (for example rotating face signs).

- 3.4 Any speed restriction should have the support of the wider community. For example in the vicinity of a school it should ideally be highlighted in the school's travel plan. The approach to 20mph in the vicinity of schools should be as it is elsewhere; such a limit should apply where there is significant vulnerable road user activity and an identified, speed-related casualty record. Current DfT guidance states that mean speeds will already be low; if not, the new restriction should be self-enforcing and careful consideration should be given to the environmental impacts associated with such schemes. In light of the criteria set by DfT for the speed limit review, 20mph restrictions should not be introduced on roads serving a strategic function.
- 3.4 On the basis of the above it is the Task Group's view that the introduction of 20mph restrictions (whether part- or full-time) in the vicinity of *all* schools should not be pursued.

Roger Giles (Chairman)
Roy Connelly
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Electoral Divisions: All
Executive Member: Environment

Local Government Act 1972 List of Background Papers		
Officer contact:	Camilla de Bernhardt	
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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
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