

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport – response to the motion on speed limits

1. The Chairman of the County Council referred the notice of motion on speed limits (see Appendix), submitted by Cllr O’Kelly to the County Council on 16 July 2021, to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport for consideration.
2. The motion called on the Cabinet Member to introduce a more flexible policy on speed reduction including the 20mph limit and called on her to work with residents and partners to implement a change in speed limit reducing it to 20mph when certain conditions were met.
3. The Cabinet Member met Cllr O’Kelly on 22 September to discuss the motion. In accordance with the briefing note submitted to County Council on 16 July (item 11c), the Cabinet Member confirmed that she was intending to review the County Council’s Road Safety Strategy and associated speed limit policy.
4. It was also confirmed that the County Council had already adopted a clear process and policy which allowed for 20mph speed limits and there were many such speed limits in place across the county.
5. The Cabinet Member agreed that promoting active travel was a priority for the County Council but considered that the focus of the motion was too narrow and that a range of other measures (such as Quiet Lanes, speed management and casualty reduction schemes) should also be considered when reviewing the Road Safety Strategy.
6. The Cabinet Member also advised Cllr O’Kelly that she had recently appointed an Adviser to a Cabinet Member for Road Safety and was considering an Executive Task and Finish Group to assist with the review.
7. For these reasons, the Cabinet Member was unable to support the motion as submitted.
8. As a result of the discussion, Cllr O’Kelly advised that she would seek to revise the motion taking into account the points raised at the meeting.

Councillor Joy Dennis

Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

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Background papers

None

Notice of Motion from Cllr O'Kelly on 20mph speed limits (submitted to 16 July 2021 County Council meeting)

This Council believes that 20mph as a speed limit in built up, residential areas including our villages, is desirable in terms of safety and noise, particularly around shopping centres and schools or on roads handling primarily local traffic.

This Council believes that promoting active travel is a priority and encouraging take up of a 20mph speed limit, where appropriate, will increase the number of journeys taken on foot or cycle.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to introduce a more flexible policy on speed reduction including the 20mph limit – and calls on her to work with residents and partners to implement a change in speed limit reducing it to 20mph if:

- (1) it is demonstrated that there is clear community support for the reduction
- (2) the road is in a residential area
- (3) the road is not an A road or major through route.