

Motion for Time Limited Debate - 20mph for Safer Communities

Proposer: Mr Stuart Heaver

Seconded: Mr Mark Hood

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Support the continued policy of promoting lower speeds by design by working with developers through the planning and highway adoption processes to ensure that new residential developments are designed to operate with 20mph speed limits as the norm, except on appropriate arterial routes.
- 2) Support work to ensure that where developments have been designed to function safely and effectively with 20mph speed limits, Kent Highways makes the strongest possible recommendation for the subsequent designation of those limits through the Traffic Regulation Order process.
- 3) Recognise the positive contribution of the Vision Zero programme and commit to supporting the safety of Kent residents by seeking a continuation and extension of its principles and objectives, with a view to enabling successor councils to adopt and incorporate Vision Zero within their future transport and community safety strategies.
- 4) Call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to work with the appropriate teams within the Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate to identify feasible locations for 20mph zone extensions in residential areas and town centres across Kent, and to present the findings to the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, as well as providing each Member with information relating to the division they represent.
- 5) Call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to allocate an appropriate budget to support the expansion of 20mph schemes across Kent.
- 6) Call on the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to explore the technical and legal feasibility of establishing a long-term target of 20mph limits on 75% of Kent's residential roads by 2030 and report on the outcomes to the Growth, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee.
- 7) Recommend that, subject to technical viability, the Cabinet Member develop a Strategy to deliver against the 2030 target.

Background Information Provided by the Green Group:

The safety of Kent's residents is a fundamental responsibility of this council. Recent tragic incidents on Kent's roads have reinforced concerns about road safety in our towns and residential communities. Members receive correspondence and engage in many conversations with residents in their divisions who express great concerns about speeding and the importance of road safety. These concerns underline the need to take proactive measures to reduce risk and improve safety for all road users.

Vision Zero is the road safety strategy for Kent which focusses on reducing deaths and serious injuries on our roads. The impact of any collision is minimised by the reduction of the speed of the vehicles involved. We are told that developers work with Kent Highways officers to ensure that new developments are designed to be 20mph compliant by design, but when the developments are complete, they often operate at higher speed limits. This seems counterintuitive, if the development has been purposefully designed to encourage lower speeds then signage and speed limits should be used to reinforce the message that 20mph is the safest speed in an urban environment.