

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 8
12 JUNE 2013	Public Report

Report of the Solicitor to the Council

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ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP TO INVESTIGATE THE BENEFITS OF EXTENDING 20MPH SPEED LIMITS ACROSS RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF PETERBOROUGH

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider and agree the Terms of Reference and membership of a Task and Finish Group which has been formed following a request by Council at its meeting on 17 April 2013 for the Committee to investigate the benefits of extending 20mph speed limits across residential areas of Peterborough review.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee approves:

1. The Terms of Reference for the Investigation.
2. The membership of the Task and Finish Group

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 17 April 2013 Council agreed the following motion put forward by Cllr Sandford and amended by Cllr Walsh:

Council notes:

1. The clear evidence which shows that restricting traffic speed has a significant beneficial impact on reducing the number and severity of road accidents, particularly those involving children;
2. That 34 local authorities (including Bristol, Cambridge, Newcastle, York, Liverpool, Islington, Southwark and Camden) have introduced 20mph speed limits in residential areas covering more than 8 million people and that many other councils have either agreed in principle or are actively considering similar proposals.

Council therefore calls upon the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee to investigate the benefits of extending 20 mph speed limits throughout residential areas in the Peterborough District and to present proposals to the Cabinet not later than 31 March 2014.

3.2 DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

At their first meeting on 29 May 2013 the Group considered its terms of reference and it is proposed that the Terms of Reference for the review are:

Terms Of Reference

Safety

- To seek a range of views on the impact of 20mph speed limits and 20 mph zones on road safety in terms of reducing vehicle speeds and casualty numbers.
- To investigate what options other local authorities across the country are pursuing in terms of 20 mph speed limits/zones

Environmental

- To gain an understanding of any potential environmental impacts of 20mph speed on air quality, tail pipe and carbon emissions as well as noise
- To gain an understanding of any potential consequences of any displacement of traffic as a result of introducing lower speed limits

Health

- To gain an understanding of the potential 'other benefits' which 20mph speeds may bring, such as health benefits, increased sociability and better walking and cycling conditions

Economic

- To identify the benefits, feasibility and potential cost of various 20 mph speed options in the city

Equality

- To investigate the benefits 20mph limits/zones will have on vulnerable people in the city.

To develop recommendations for the future development of Council policy on 20 mph speed limits/zones and prioritise implementation if required.

3.3 MEMBERSHIP

As part of the process of setting up the Task and Finish Group the Senior Governance Officer wrote to all Group Secretaries to request nominations for membership. The nominations put forward were:

Councillor McKean
Councillor Lamb
Councillor Peach
Councillor JR Fox
Councillor JA Fox
Councillor Shearman
Councillor Shaheed

It is therefore proposed that these nominations are confirmed as the membership of the Task and Finish Group.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 If the Terms of Reference and membership of the Task and Finish Group are agreed by the Committee then the Task and Finish Group will proceed with the investigation and report back to the Committee with its findings to a meeting in February 2014 prior to reporting to Cabinet in March 2014.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 None