

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 28 January 2025

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy – Observations on the Scrutiny Committee’s report

Purpose: To provide the Cabinet Briefing with the opportunity to consider the response of the Director of Communities, Economy and Transport to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) note and welcome the report of the Place Scrutiny Committee; and**
 - 2) advise the County Council that, in considering the report of the Scrutiny Committee, the Council be recommended to welcome the report and agree the response of the Director of Communities Economy and Transport to the recommendations and their implementation as set out in the action plan attached as appendix 1 to this report.**
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1. Background

1.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee at the meeting on 12 July 2024 agreed to establish a Review Board to undertake a Scrutiny Review of Local Speed Limit Policy. The scope of the review encompassed reviewing the existing Local Speed Limit Policy and comparing it with the current Department for Transport (DfT) guidance and other local authorities’ approach to speed limits. In particular, it examined how the Council might better communicate its policy approach to setting local speed limits and the wider policy context they are set within. The review also considered the resources available to implement schemes to lower speed limits and the amount of officer time spent carrying out assessments of road safety concerns and preparing petition reports.

2. Supporting information

2.1 The Scrutiny Review of Speed Limit Policy is welcomed by the Department and in particular the opportunity afforded by this review to examine our approach to setting speed limits and confirm that ESCC local speed limit policy aligns with DfT guidance and is broadly in line with the approach taken by other authorities. We also welcome the opportunity to review how we communicate our policy and decision making process to our local communities, and to explore options to manage demand.

2.2 The Department’s response to the Review Board’s recommendations is set out in the action plan attached at appendix 1.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Scrutiny Review has highlighted the Council's local speed limit policy and approach to setting speed limits is in line with the current DfT guidance and is broadly similar to the approach taken by other local authorities.

3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the recommendations in the action plan as detailed in appendix 1.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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LOCAL MEMBERS

ALL

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None