

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No.04/18

Date: 5 April 2018

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose: This briefing note sets out the proposed methodology to be used by officers for the monitoring of blanket 20mph zones within other authority areas.

This briefing note was requested by the RCE O&S Committee following consideration of a report pertaining to the potential for area wide 20mph speed restrictions (20s Plenty) within Medway's authority area. This briefing forms part of a number of requests following due consideration of the above mentioned report.

Background Summary

As part of the 'Report on Possible Introduction of 20s Plenty Scheme in Medway' considered in June 2017 by the RCE Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a number of options and recommendations were put forward for the Committee's consideration. These included:

- *Option 4 - Monitor the success of existing blanket 20mph wide speed restrictions on residential roads in other authorities and compare commonalities. This will allow us to add to data sets of the effectiveness of blanket 20mph zones at other local authorities. Further, there is an expectation that DfT will publish research into the effectiveness of blanket 20mph wide speed restrictions, which will prevent abortive costs.*
- *Recommendation that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation monitor the current blanket 20mph zones that have been implemented in London and other Boroughs to determine their cost effectiveness and their ability to reduce casualties*

The Committee requested that:

- a) *that the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation monitor the current blanket 20mph zones that have been implemented in London and other Boroughs, including neighbouring local authority areas to determine their cost effectiveness, their ability to reduce casualties and impact on air quality, also giving consideration to how long the schemes have been in place.*

and,

- e) *that a briefing note be provided to Members of the committee in 6 months setting out the methodology to be used by officers in monitoring blanket 20mph zones in other areas.*

Methodology

The ability to monitor as requested by the committee, particularly with regard to air quality, relies on the availability of the relevant information. Be that existing previously published monitoring or available datasets to allow independent monitoring to take place.

Information Scoping Stage

The following information and data will be sought to allow monitoring of the existing area wide 20mph speed restrictions.

- Obtain an update from the Department for Transport on research commissioned in relation to 20mph projects. (Interim results in relation to speed monitoring as part of this research have now been published). Imminent publication of central government research may avoid abortive work.
- Confirmation of the areas/schemes where blanket type 20mph speed restrictions have been implemented in London, its boroughs, and within neighbouring local authority areas.

(The above information is not held centrally by any one body. The necessary information will need to be gathered.)

- Confirmation of monitoring information already published in relation to area wide 20mph projects, including assessment of other information and data that may be available to allow independent monitoring.
- Confirmation of the absence of information. The 20s Plenty report records that some local authorities that have implemented area wide 20mph speed

restrictions recognise that review of their schemes is required but have not been completed to date.

Information Gathering Stage

Scoping of the information that is available around the large scale implementation of 20mph speed restrictions will inform the pathways available to gather the necessary information. At this time this can simply be categorised as follows:

- Directly available monitoring information/results – most likely to be information contained within research and studies that have been published and therefore already publicly available.
- Requests for non-directly available information – where no information or previous monitoring appears to be available. Requests to other local authorities may need to be made to obtain any public information/records held in relation to the area wide 20mph restrictions. A simple and consistent request format will need to be developed.

Monitoring

Some of the UK's area wide 20mph speed restrictions have now been in place for some time. It is therefore envisaged that monitoring will have already been carried out in those cases and therefore the outcomes of this will be available. In other areas monitoring may not have been completed or may be in the early stages.

The information available as determined by the scoping stage will be assessed against the desired monitoring factors i.e. cost effectiveness, the ability to reduce casualties, impact on air quality, and implementation date.

Following evaluation of the information available an overview of this information picture will inform the monitoring situation and conclusions in each case.

Outcome & Timescales

The core findings of the above process will be recorded via a summary report to the RCE Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Officers envisage that this monitoring process would be concluded by September 2018.

Updates to this briefing may be circulated during this period where relevant details emerge that may have a bearing on this monitoring exercise.

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