



Report title: Update on the Implementation of 20mph Zones on Residential Streets across the Borough of Rochdale

Report to: Rochdale South Township Delegated Sub-Committee

Date of meeting: 9th October 2024

Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Shah Wazir

Report of: M.Robinson

Public or private: Public

Key Decision: N/A

Published on the Forward Plan: N/A

1. Report summary

- 1.1 Rochdale Borough Council (RBC) supports the UK Government's recent endorsement of The Stockholm Declaration, which stipulates in Resolution 11, a council should *"mandate a maximum road travel speed of 20mph in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix. Except where strong evidence exists that show higher speeds are safe."*
- 1.2 In October 2021, a decision was made at full council to formally adopt Resolution 11. In practice, this will mean, the default speed limit on Rochdale's urban and rural residential streets will be 20mph, with engineered traffic calming measures in place to promote self-enforcement. Except on main roads where speed limits, if higher, must be both safe and appropriate.
- 1.3 As part of this decision, full council declared a commitment to provide the necessary funding, to achieve this.
- 1.4 Highways were initially provided with £100,000 p.a. Capital budget commencing in 2022/23 for a period of five years. The budget was allocated to implement two Borough-wide road safety initiatives;
 - Identify roads which should adopt a 20mph speed limit, to develop 20mph scheme proposals and implement low cost schemes
 - Apply for and implement procedures in accordance with Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, this includes the purchase of enforcement equipment and also developing future proposals

- 1.5 With this funding allocation, Highways commenced identifying/developing schemes for roads suitable for 20mph speed limits. Where possible the funding has also been used to implement low cost schemes and supplement other commissioned projects funded by alternative sources to introduce speed reduction measures.
- 1.6 For the 2024/25 financial year an additional £776,000, phased over 2 years, has been allocated from the Highways Steady State Budget to implement additional 20mph zones. Highways have now commenced a phased implementation and delivery of the Council's decision, to complement other alternatively funded schemes.
- 1.7 The report content, provides a progression update for the 20mph commitment and to inform The Committee of the next phases for this initiative
- 1.8 Large sections of the Borough are already subject to a 20mph speed limit and traffic calming, with scheme implementations commencing from the mid-1990s using various funding sources. Historically, no Borough-wide strategy existed for the implementation of traffic calming schemes, which has resulted with an imbalance across some Townships/Wards. Consequently, these areas will require more investment in comparison to others, to ensure a balanced and proportionate delivery across the Rochdale Borough.
- 1.9 Delivery of these 20mph proposals will be introduced based on Highway Officers recommendations, with a minimum of 5 schemes identified for each Township. This seeks to support a balanced rollout and to ensure consistency for the delivery of the 20mph commitment.
- 1.10 A phased programme of implementation will be adopted across the Townships, subject to any restrictions encountered by the progression of other ongoing schemes and/or budget availability.
- 1.11 **Appendix A:** refers to the updated boundary map Ward/Township extents.
- 1.12 **Appendix B:** indicates a list for the proposed schemes and estimated costs with phasing information indicating the order of construction.
- 1.13 **Appendix C:** shows Phase 1 schemes which are currently being progressed/constructed.
- 1.14 **Appendix D:** in Autumn 2024, Highways intend to commence these Phase 2 schemes/plans.
- 1.15 **Appendix E:** contains a list of all 20mph and traffic calming schemes, implemented since The Council made its decision in 2021.
- 1.16 **Appendix F,** contains digitised Township mapping which displays the areas already subject to a 20mph limit (red outline). At the time of report submission, Highways are awaiting system updates to reflect recent speed limit and traffic calmed areas additions to our highway network
- 1.17 Annual progress reports for these schemes will be provided to The Committee to reflect the 20mph commitment delivery.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Highways recommend the Committee note the contents of the report and the proposed implementation of the borough-wide 20mph commitment.
- 2.2 Note and support the phased implementation of the 20mph commitment. A minimum of 5 schemes have been identified in each Township, this seeks to provide a balanced rollout and to ensure consistency of delivery of the Council's decision across the whole Rochdale Borough.

2.3 Phase 2 Scheme implementation

Heywood

- Wilton Street Area, Heywood – Full traffic calming scheme, approx: £60,000

Pennines

- Bellshill Crescent Area, Smallbridge & Firgrove – Hybrid(partial traffic calming, majority has existing traffic calming) approx: £34,000

Rochdale North

- Caldershaw Road Area, Caldershaw – Full traffic calming scheme, approx: £130,000

Rochdale South

- Norford Way, Norden – Full traffic calming scheme, approx: £55,000

Middleton

- Cheapside Area, Middleton – Full traffic calming scheme, approx: £110,000

- 2.4 Acknowledge that further funding will be required in future years to ensure all residential streets are subject to a 20mph speed limit.
- 2.5 Approve the delegation, to the Chair of this Committee, The Director of Economy and Place and Portfolio Holder for Highways the ability to resolve none controversial objections of 5 or less, to traffic regulation orders being promoted in association with the 20mph commitment. Should the objection be deemed contentious or there are more than 5 the matter would be referred to Township.

3. Reason for recommendation

- 3.1 The scheme is promoted and recommended by the decision of The Council made in October 2021

4. Alternatives considered

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Key information

- 5.1 The scheme is promoted and recommended by the decision made at full council in October 2021, and as part of the Council's statutory responsibility to ensure that its highways operates safely and efficiently for all road users.

6. Finance

- 6.1 Highways were initially provided with £100,000 p.a. Capital budget commencing in 2022/23 for a period of five years (total of £500,000) to be used for implementation of Moving Traffic Offences and 20 mph zones on residential streets. For the financial year 2024/25, a further £776,000 phased over 2 years has been allocated from the Highways Steady State Budget. Therefore the current total budget is £1.276 million.
- 6.2 So far a total of £101,206 has been spent on both projects with further costs expected for both.
- 6.3 Further funding will be required to fully implement 20mph speed limits and traffic calming on all residential streets in the Borough. Until all the design work has been completed the total implementation cost is unknown.
- 6.4 The implementation of the 20mph zones will be undertaken in a phased approach to align with the current budget. Appendix B contains a list of proposed schemes listing which phase they will be implemented along with estimated costs. The total estimated costs exceeds the current budget and the list only includes areas that have been reviewed and proposals developed. There are further areas that will need to be assessed and designed, indicating that further budget will be needed in future years.

7. Legal

- 7.1 Consultation, required by the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996, to take place.
- 7.2 Consultation with relevant statutory bodies to be undertaken.

8. Human resource

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. Sustainability impact

- 9.1 Not applicable

10. Other considerations (corporate priorities, risks)

- 10.1 Not applicable

Background Papers - Contact:

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