

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
30th July 2020**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Sandra Davies

In the light of positive comments made recently by Lee Waters MS, Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Economy & Transport on the campaign for a '20's Plenty' speed limit in all urban areas, what consideration has Powys County Council given to imposing a voluntary 20mph limit upon all vehicles in its ownership, or delivering its services, in our towns & villages?

As this measure would pay dividends both in terms of public and pedestrian safety, retail vibrancy and the hospitality sector and environmental protection, will the Portfolio Holder commit to commissioning a feasibility survey, to be peer reviewed by the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth?

Response

The Welsh 20mph Task Force Group completed its report which was supported by a Plenary vote in July 2020; to progress a default 20mph speed limit for restricted roads in Wales as quickly as possible, with a target date of April 2023 for the change in the law coming into effect. The report highlights the many considerations and complexities behind such behavioural change and also makes reference that it will not be appropriate to place a speed limit of 20mph on all existing 30mph roads such as principal corridors or where there is little frontage development and that there will be a need for exceptions (circa 17% of the network).

Powys is an extensive county and its staff (and members) are required to travel around the county undertaking many diverse functions from waste and recycling to social care, with employees using a mixture of their own vehicles and those supplied by a service or leased. It also employs many local contractors and suppliers who undertake significant travel such as bus operators. On the whole Powys has a good road safety record and a low accident rate within its urban areas, with the majority of serious accidents occurring on the rural network. As part of the Covid 19 response and building back better, we will plan to reduce our travel where appropriate utilising technology but we currently have no plans at this time in terms of implementing a voluntary 20mph and it is difficult to foresee how this could be implemented and 'monitored/enforced' pragmatically.