



## **Briefing note: Introduction of a borough-wide 20mph speed limit**

### **Purpose of report:**

To report on the purpose, progress, cost and enforcement regime for the borough-wide 20mph zone.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In the 2014 the Mayors election manifesto a commitment to introduce a borough wide 20mph was launched. 20mph zones have been introduced in residential areas throughout Lewisham over the last 12 years as part of the borough's traffic safety schemes. As a result 65% of the boroughs roads are now 20 mph roads.

The primary function of a 20mph zone is to reduce speed throughout and hence the number and severity of road traffic casualties. In 2008 a report commissioned by Transport for London regarding 20mph zones in London included amongst its conclusions that: "On average, between 1991 and 2006, there has been a 1.7% decline in all casualties each year on London's roads" and "Historically, 20mph zones in London have reduced overall casualties within (20mph) zones by 42% above this background decline."

The 20mph speed limits are being introduced in a number of London Boroughs. Currently two neighbouring boroughs (Southwark & Lambeth) are introducing borough-wide 20mph speed limits.

### **KEY ISSUES TO NOTE:**

**Purpose;**- The rationale of the borough-wide 20mph speed limit introduction is to reduce speeds and reduce the number and severity of casualties across the borough. The lower speed limit will also create a fairer balance between people and the motor vehicle. The Council recognises that some roads are better suited to 20mph limits than others, and a widespread monitoring exercise will identify those roads where compliance needs to be improved.

A borough-wide limit is to ensure a consistent and fair approach to all residents and all road users regardless of location and to engender a culture of driving at lower and safer speeds.

For each 1mph reduction in speeds there is an estimated 6% reduction in casualties.

**Progress;**- The programme of work has been agreed by Mayor and Cabinet and the initial data collection phase has been completed, with 172 speed surveys undertaken across a variety of roads and locations. Collision data is also being interrogated and analysed. Following this analysis, consultation will take place with key stakeholders

such as the emergency services, TfL, and neighbouring authorities. Design options will be worked on throughout this period and detailed consultation with emergency services will be carried out at this stage. Consultation with key stakeholders and the launch of the publicity campaign is to be undertaken before Christmas. We are still on track for implementation in July 2016.

**Cost;** - Approximately £1.3m has been allocated to monitor and introduce measures in the new 20mph speed limit locations. Consideration of this cost has been set against the recognised high cost of personal injury collisions\*. A single incident resulting in fatal injuries is estimated to cost £1.9m, serious £226,399 and slight £25,531. This means that in Lewisham, Fatal and Serious collisions cost society £26,558,805. For each 1mph reduction in speeds there is an estimated 6% reduction in casualties.

*\*<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reported-road-casualties-great-britain-annual-report-2014>*

**Enforcement;**- We will work closely with the Met Police to identify issues and resolve them so we can deliver a joined up approach and a successful implementation process throughout the scheme. In recent months, there has been a change in the Police's approach to 20mph speed limits. The police will continue with speed enforcement in boroughs at the current levels. The main requirement is that boroughs work with the Police to ensure roads are suitable for a 20 mph speed limit, with clear and correct signing, and additional physical measures where appropriate. The main advice is to work with the Police at the planning stage and to make use of new initiatives such as Community Roadwatch. Existing speed cameras can now be re-calibrated to enforce 20mph limits. Driver rectification courses are also offered to any drivers exceeding the speed limit in a 20mph speed limit.