Nottingham City Council's 20mph Scheme FAQs

Below you will find answers to a number of frequently asked questions about the City wide 20mph proposals. If you can't find the information you're looking for below though please contact the 20mph team on 20mph@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or 0115 876 52 57

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What are the reasons for the scheme?

We hope that introducing 20mph speed limits in residential areas across Nottingham will result in a number of improvements for local communities, including:

- **Streets that are more cycle and pedestrian friendly**

Bristol found that reducing speed limits led to a mean increase of 23 per cent for walking and 20.5 per cent for cycling - Britain's kids on average cycle or walk to school less than most other European countries, and making the roads safer would help to increase the number who do.

- **Greater community ownership of streets and parks**

Slowing traffic down makes walking and cycling more attractive, and can increase social interaction as people become more visible on streets and footpaths – related to this, some authorities have implemented 20mph limits/zones in recognition of their role to help boost tourism, which is a key local economic driver in some areas.

- **Reduced fuel consumption, improved air quality, reduced traffic noise**

Driving at a more consistent speed is more fuel efficient, quieter and less polluting than frequent stopping and starting – Cambridge City Council has just been awarded an Air Quality Grant from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to help implement 20mph limits in recognition of the role they have to improve air quality

- **Safer road junctions**

Research shows that a reduction of 1 mile per hour in existing low speed areas leads to 6 per cent fewer collisions – a recent evaluation of a 20mph area in central

Brighton & Hove found that there had been fewer collisions as well as fewer road crash casualties and lower speeds.

- **Potential reduction in the severity and number of accidents and collisions**

A person is 7 times more likely to survive if she/he is hit by a car travelling at 20mph rather than 30mph – lowering the speed limit to 20mph decreases collisions between vehicles and children by up to 70 per cent (children cannot correctly judge the speed of traffic before they are 12).

There is a commitment in the Council Plan to introduce more 20mph speed limits across the City around educational establishments, shopping, residential areas and community facilities. The Department for Transport (DfT) has relaxed legislation to implement 20mph speed limits in residential areas allowing a more flexible approach to creating a 20mph speed limit which covers roads within the wider community. The DfT circular 'Setting Local Speed Limits' published in January 2013 asks traffic authorities to; 'consider the introduction of more 20mph limits and zones, over time, in urban areas and built-up village streets that are primarily residential, to ensure greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists.' The proposals are supported by Councillor Urquhart as the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation.

This scheme will not replace any additional investigation by the Accident Investigation Team who will continue to monitor all reported injury related accidents across Nottingham City, implementing casualty reduction schemes when appropriate and when funding is available.

Which roads will be included within the 20mph speed limit?

To begin with all residential roads within each area will be included with only major A and B roads, along with private roads, being excluded. These will, however, not be finished proposals. Throughout the formal consultation we will be asking residents which roads they believe should be excluded or included and why, using this information to shape the final proposals.

How will the limits be created?

New signage will be required to tell and remind drivers that they are in a 20mph area. There are no plans to introduce any speed reduction or traffic calming measures, such as speed humps and cushions. It is hoped that slower speeds can be brought about by the support of the community.

How will the 20mph limit be enforced?

There are no plans for any fixed camera enforcement of the new speed limits. Instead we will be working with residents and Nottinghamshire Police to set up a number of Community Road Safety Groups across the City. As part of this trained volunteers can carry out speed checks using detection devices; support would be provided by Nottingham City Council and a scheme is already successfully running in the Bulwell area.

The actions of the group help to guide the activity of Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council by helping to identify clearly where there are measured speeding problems. **If it is something that you would like to be involved in please do contact us.**

Will 20mph increase journey times / effect public transport timings / increase emissions?

Journey times - Very few journeys from home, to work, school or the shops allow a steady 30mph speed to be maintained. Journey times are invariably effected by the amount of time you are stopped at congestion points, traffic lights, junctions, zebra crossings, etc rather than the maximum speed at which you drive. When taking into account that most properties will be within ½ a mile of a main road which will be remaining at 30 mph, then the average journey will only take a few seconds longer.

Public Transport - Most buses spend very little time travelling at more than 20mph, particularly in residential areas. Even on main bus routes a recent study found that less than 25% of the time was spent above 18.5mph, at peak times this proportion is even less. Lower speeds also make it easier for buses to pull back out after stops and make for more comfortable riding.

Emissions - Guidance from the DfT states; 'Generally driving more slowly at a steady pace saves fuel and carbon dioxide emissions, unless an unnecessarily low gear is used.'. The AA's report *Fuel For Thought (Jan 2008)* 'accepts that targeted 20mph speed limits in residential areas are popular and improve safety. Along shorter roads with junctions and roundabouts, limiting acceleration up to 20mph reduces fuel consumption.

Which vehicles will be affected?

The new speed limit applies to all road users. This includes buses and cyclists.

How will the scheme be enforced?

The scheme will not include any form of traffic calming or camera enforcement and will be signing only. The scheme would be enforced by community support encouraging compliance and through a Community Road Safety Group which we are hoping to create for the area.

Nottinghamshire Police support the introduction of 20mph Speed Limits but will not enforce them as a priority.

How much will this cost?

The scheme is estimated to cost approximately £155k on average per area, including data collection and monitoring before and after the scheme. As a comparison on average £100k will fund 1 mile of streets to be physically traffic calmed but spending £100k on residential 20mph speed limits without physical calming would fund 56 miles.

Can’t the money be better used elsewhere?

The majority of the funding for the project has been awarded by the government’s Local Sustainable Transport Fund and can only be used for schemes that aim to improve and increase sustainable transport. We cannot therefore use it for road maintenance or other, non-highway related schemes.

What about sign clutter?

Nottingham City Council is committed to reducing clutter on our streets. Whilst each road will legally require a certain level of signing we are undertaking a full audit of all existing signs within each area to remove any outdated or obsolete ones.

How will you measure the results?

Whilst in an ideal world we could change something and the next day see the results, it is in fact very hard to alter behaviours that have been in place for many years – as with driving. We plan to measure the results – vehicle flows and speeds, accident numbers, number of people walking and cycling – frequently after implementation, in the hope of bringing about long term changes.

Should specific roads experience speeding problems in the short term then the Community Road Safety Groups will be able to carry out monitoring and enforcement.