

Dear Councillors and Clerks,

SUBJECT: Announcing a new approach to managing speed limits in North Yorkshire

Given the invaluable role town and parish councils play across North Yorkshire's communities, I wanted to get in touch with you all to share what I believe are the very positive results of a six-month review of North Yorkshire Council's approach to managing speed limits in the county.

You may be aware that you can currently apply for a 20mph speed limit in your town or parish, which the Council will review under its 20mph speed limit and zone policy. Although the policy introduced in January 2022 has resulted in more 20mph schemes, my concern is that the current arrangement for reviewing speed limits is slow, reactive and constrained in its scope. I know many of you are frustrated too.

My view, and the view of the council's Executive, is that we need a more strategic approach and one that considers speed limits on rural roads, not just urban ones, and all speed limits in all areas, not just 20mph limits. We also need to do this proactively and not have to rely on communities to let us know when they believe there is a problem that needs to be addressed.

The review referred to earlier has looked at the latest research, taken account of what other local authorities are doing and which has sought the views of North Yorkshire councillors and other stakeholders. It has also considered a range of factors, from road safety, environment and value for money to public health benefits and the potential for walking and cycling, as well as enforcement. The result is several proposals, which I want to explain in more detail now:

1. I am not proposing changes to the existing 20mph speed limit and zone policy. Although the application of the policy can be improved, I consider the provisions within the policy itself to be fit for purpose with flexibility to deliver 20mph in appropriate locations: 20mph limits (signed only) can be introduced where speeds are 24mph or below, while 20mph zones (with engineering measures) can be introduced where speeds are more than 24mph.
2. I am not proposing a default 20mph to replace 30mph. Recognising the often-unique nature of different locations, which present their own particular challenges, I believe we should continue to review each location individually and agree speed limits tailored to that location after local consultation. I would not wish to impose 20mph as the default solution for every road given the vast and diverse nature of North Yorkshire.
3. Finally, I am proposing that we undertake a series of planned speed limit reviews across the entire county, on both urban and rural roads. This will seek to address inconsistencies that may have arisen over time and to identify potential improvements, not just proposed 20mph limits but the whole range of speed limits. In turn, this will generate a pipeline of speed limit schemes for delivery. Local town/parish councils will be critical in helping to shape these. Proposals will require support from the local North Yorkshire councillor and from within the community.

We plan to review all locations over the coming years, based on a speed management strategy that will take several months to prepare and approve. While we will not have funds to deliver every scheme in the pipeline immediately, over time we hope to identify funds from a range of sources, including from town and parishes if you wish to expedite delivery.

- Our proposals are set out as a series of recommendations in the report the Council's Executive approved on July 4. If you want to know more, here is a link:

[\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Executive, 04/07/2023 11:00 \(northyorks.gov.uk\)](#)

I hope you agree that our new approach represents a positive step forward that will help make our roads safer and more accessible for all. I look forward to working with you to make improvements in your area.

If you have questions about our new approach, please get in touch with me on cllr.keane.duncan@northyorks.gov.uk.

With best wishes,



Cllr Keane Duncan

Executive member for highways and transport

North Yorkshire Council