

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

21 NOVEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

20MPH DEFAULT LIMIT IN WALES FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Forum to receive a presentation on the introduction of The Restricted Roads (20mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:-
1. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 published by Welsh Government, identified one of its key priorities to 'change the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas to reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities and make walking and cycling safer and more attractive'.
- 3.2 It is proposed by enabling a much wider take up of 20mph limits it will achieve significant road safety benefits, particularly in deprived neighbourhoods. In the longer term, reductions in the perception of road danger is expected to lead to more walking and cycling which will improve public health and replace some short car journeys, and so achieving further reductions in collisions and casualties. More walking and cycling is also likely to lead to greater social cohesion which brings further societal and health benefits. Further, lower speeds will lead to reductions in traffic noise, while impacts on air quality will be neutral at worst and journey time increases will be slight.
- 3.3 As part of the new legislation, a 20mph Task Force was created to work closely with local authorities to identify those roads which would be an exception to the legislation. The Authority provided local knowledge and traffic management expertise to help identify those roads which should be an exception to the legislation to help ensure limits throughout the borough are abided to and consequently that the legislation does not fall into disrepute.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1** A powerpoint presentation will be given to the Forum to advise of the implications identified in regard of the exception roads that will require Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) for the retention or amendments to speed limits, namely: The revocation of restricted road status with the introduction of set speed limits by TRO's or the revocation of an existing TRO to reinstate roads back to restricted status, thus in line with Welsh Government legislation for the national rollout by 17 September 2023.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1** There is no effect upon policy framework or procedure rules within this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1** The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1** Any changes to policy or procedure will be prepared in accordance with the 7 Wellbeing goals and the 5 ways of working as identified in the Act.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1** Currently identified financial costs relating the new national change in legislation such as the implementation of the required traffic road signage are being met by Welsh Government.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1** That the Town and Community Council Forum note the report and accompanying presentation.

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Background documents: None