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Place and Resources Overview Committee

Date: Thursday, 21 April 2022
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Members (Quorum 3)
Carole Jones (Chairman), Les Fry (Vice-Chairman), Pauline Batstone, Toni Coombs, Ryan Hope, Sherry Jespersen, Val Pothecary, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr and Roland Tarr

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact 01305 252209 / lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

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6.	**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**	3 - 4

To receive questions submitted by councillors.

Councillors can submit up to two valid questions at each meeting and sub divided questions count towards this total. Questions and statements received will be published as a supplement to the agenda and all questions, statements and responses will be published in full within the minutes of the meeting.

The submissions must be emailed in full to lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk by 8.30am on 14 April 2022.

Dorset Council Constitution – Procedure Rule 13

Place and Resources Overview Committee – 21 April 2022

Agenda item 6 – Questions from Members

Questions relating to agenda item 8 – 20mph Speed Limit Approach

Questions from Councillor Beryl Ezzard

I welcome this Report coming to the Overview Committee and wish to voice my concerns and my disappointment on the lack of scope in interpretation made by DC of the DfT updated Guidance of 2013. This Report has a negative feel towards 20 mph implementation, taking the view that the DC follow the DfT Guidance to the letter! Surely, because there are no “MUSTS” (regulated rules by Laws) in the DfT Guidance, regarding road speed reduction: the “SHOULD” in the DfT guidance, ought to be implemented by DC as in the “SPIRIT” of the Guidance, allowing more flexibility regarding the list of onerous criteria. The small allowance of £75K is by no means enough, even if overcoming the Criteria; means only 15 roads costing £5K each would be able to reduce the speed limit, in the period stated
Q1.How many years does the £75K cover.

A key requirement: as stated in the Dft Guidance - “is that Local Authorities when setting speed limits MUST take into account the needs of vulnerable roads users, i.e.: pedestrians and cyclists.” However, when setting speed limits, the DC “ do not need to take into account any operational decisions of the Police on the level of enforcement.”

Q2. With many flaws in the this Report I request that it is deferred and re-written with a more positive outcome so that 20 mph. limits are possible in many towns, villages and rural areas; many communities will benefit from bringing forward 20 mph limits without onerous criteria; In considering A & B Roads, where average speeds are 30mph(allowed currently) and the last (it must be a joke!) and I quote “A Local Ward Member doesn’t want it” beggars belief.?
Let’s bring DC up to date, as many counties in England have since 2013 where 20 mph is regarded as the new 30 mph; which has proved to be much safer, for vulnerable road users, and in these times of the World Climate Emergency; fuel economy, less pollution and kinder for the environment and people.

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