

Why 20's Plenty

The Case for 20 mph Limits. Dec 2011

20 mph limits - an inexpensive and popular way to improve safety, cut pollution and encourage smarter travel choices. **20's Plenty**

Nearly 7.5 million people live in places committed to 20 mph limits - Portsmouth, Bristol, Colchester, Hackney, Islington, Leicester, Lancashire, Newcastle, Norwich, Oxford, Southwark, Warrington York and Wirral. Edinburgh and Cambridge are piloting.



Where People Live

20 mph limits are safer –resulting in 22% fewer casualties in Portsmouth. Other reasons to introduce 20 mph limits include:

Popularity - 71% of drivers support 20 mph speed limits on residential streets. (British Social Attitudes Survey 2011)

Pollution, Climate Change and Air Quality - When 30 km/h (18.5 mph) zones were introduced in Germany, car drivers on average changed gear 12% less often, braked 14% less often and required 12% less fuel.

20 mph Limits Cost 50 Times Less Than Zones - DfT Guidelines (1/06) relaxed requirements for 20 mph limits in residential areas. It is no longer mandatory to impose physical measures such as bumps. Portsmouth's 20 mph limit cost just £333 per street.

Self-Enforcing – 20 mph speed limits are community led and establishment endorsed. Strong support from communities and an increasing police focus on community policing supports 20 mph limits which can be enforced with a "light touch".

Economic Impact - Lowering urban and residential limits to 20 mph (excluding arterial roads) increases the average car journey time by just 40 seconds. At 20 mph the gap between vehicles shortens, leading to improved traffic flow.

Health Improvements - Reduced local emissions, improved air quality and increased likelihood of a shift to active modes of transport like walking or cycling.

Better Quality of Life and Reduced Inequalities - Slower speeds benefit large numbers of non-car users, reducing noise and allowing better urban design standards for quality places. Those currently suffering the greatest inequalities tend to live nearer to busy roads and therefore benefit more from 20mph limits. 20 mph reduces health inequalities by extending the life expectancy of disadvantaged people.

20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a 20mph default speed limit in residential streets without the installation of physical traffic calming measures.

Feedback

We welcome your response on this briefing. We provide more information on our site www.20splentyforus.org.uk and can recommend experts on technical issues.

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