

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

17 JANUARY 2023

MEMBER'S ITEM: ROAD SAFETY

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Michael Edwards, Head of Transport and Parking
Jon Pitt, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report sets out a response to an issue, raised by Councillor Johnson, concerning road safety.

1. Budget and policy framework
 - 1.1. Under Medway Constitution Overview and Scrutiny rules (Chapter 4, Part 5, Paragraph 9.1) Councillor Johnson has requested that an item on this matter is included on the agenda for this meeting.
2. The Issue
 - 2.1. Councillor Johnson has requested that an item be placed on the agenda and the reasons are set out as follows:
 - 2.2. In view of the effort and expense of the Deanwood Drive speed limit change, which cost £18,000 simply to enable drivers to drive at 40 mph legally for less than half a mile, why has the Council given so little attention to road safety on the busy roads of Gillingham South?
3. Director's comments
 - 3.1. The scheme for Deanwood Drive aligned with our commitment to keeping Medway's speed limits under review and making alterations where appropriate to promote a network that is logical and supports safe road use. A survey at the southern end of Deanwood Drive indicated that vehicle speeds were commensurate with a higher speed limit. This was due to differences in the character of the road when compared to the northern section, which is more residential in nature. A new start point for the 30mph limit, where the

character of the road changes, was implemented. The speed limits are now self-evident and better understood by motorists, and this is expected to promote wider compliance along the whole length of the road.

- 3.2. The Council has statutory obligations to investigate crashes and deliver measures that promote road safety, including the dissemination of information and advice, training, and physical improvements to the public highway. We are committed to improving road safety and reducing road casualties, helping our residents and visitors to travel around Medway safely. Where road safety problems are identified, priority is given to investigating potential measures to prevent further casualties on our roads. Our approach to road safety is data led, but we also respond to community concerns put to us by Ward Members and residents. Our Transport and Parking service would welcome a conversation with Councillor Johnson over any specific issues in Gillingham South that he would like to discuss.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1. There are no specific risk implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of this report.

5. Legal and Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific financial or legal implications for Medway Council arising directly from the contents of the report.
- 5.2. The setting of local speed limits falls within the Council's existing speed limit setting powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. The Committee is asked to note the Director's comments provided in response to the Member's item.

Officer contact

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Appendices

None

Background papers

None