

The Essex County Council (Various Roads, Maldon) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 202*

Statement of Reasons

The County Council is proposing to implement a permanent 20mph Speed Limit Order to reduce vehicular speeds and improve the pedestrian environment along the length of roads identified in the schedule.

On 13th July 2020 following an emergency Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) under section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 a temporary 20mph speed limit by Temporary Traffic Regulation Order under Section 14(1) was then applied as an immediate response to the Coronavirus pandemic to assist with social distancing measures. The temporary speed limit is due to expire on 13th July 2022 following an additional 6-month extension approved by the Department for Transport, at which time the roads will revert to their previous speed limits of 30mph by virtue of street lighting.

Following consultation with the public and local elected members it has been identified that there is a strong local desire to make the temporary limit a permanent 20mph speed limit.

The Maldon Local Highway Panel have given their support and approved the finance for the scheme. The statutory order making process will now be undertaken to consider making these roads subject to a permanent 20 mph order to promote active travel and support local businesses creating a better environment for businesses and residents alike.

Fullbridge Road is classed as PR2 in the county route hierarchy. Approval to undertake reductions to 20mph on roads classed as PR1/2 in the county route hierarchy was given by the Leader of Council on CMA FP/142/08/21 "Active Travel Fund 2" https://cmis.essex.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions/tabid/78/ctl/ViewCMIS_DecisionDetails/mid/422/Id/8818/Default.aspx

The reduction in speed limit to 20mph is in keeping with the aims and ambitions of "Everyone's Essex" to create a strong, inclusive, and sustainable economy for Essex residents. Improving the walking and shopping environment of the historic market town of Maldon by lower vehicle speeds helping to encourage people to visit the town centre and local businesses. Lower speed limits in the residential areas will help to encourage local sustainable travel to schools and shops.

The Statutory Order Making Process will enable an additional set of public consultation to take place with all stakeholders that will be considered before any decision is undertaken on implementing the permanent 20 mph speed limits as advertised.