

THE CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON (VARIOUS ROADS) (SPEED LIMITS) (AMENDMENT 23) ORDER 2023

Statement of Reasons

This Order is being proposed for the following reasons:

- For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road or any other road or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising (*i.e. to improve safety*)
- for facilitating the passage on the road or any other road of any class of traffic (including pedestrians)
- for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs
- Improving air quality

Southampton City Council is committed to ensuring the city's streets are safe for everyone who uses them. The Corporate Plan and Connected Southampton 2040 Local Transport Plan set out the Council's objectives to make Southampton a place where people can easily and safely get around; and continue to reduce casualties from transport collisions towards zero, focusing on the safety of children and people walking and cycling.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) has put together a 20mph factsheet, explaining the need for lower speeds to bring down casualty rates, and the evidence behind 20mph zones/limits in reducing vehicle speeds. Safety and environmental improvements for all road users can be achieved by reducing vehicle speeds.

Southampton is seeking to become a recognised UNICEF 'Child Friendly City' by 2025. Evidence shows that children's reaction times are slower than adults' in perceiving gaps in fast moving traffic. The UN's 'Streets for Life' campaign and World Health Organisation call for 20mph in all areas where people and traffic mix to promote child friendly streets and reduce child casualty rates.

Studies have also shown that the use of 20mph speed limits will specifically assist other vulnerable road user groups, including people with disabilities and elderly pedestrians. This is of vital importance in reducing the risk of severe injury and helping to maintain independent mobility.

The council has recently committed funding to implement 20mph limits in residential areas of the city where feasible and where there is strong community support.

This order is being proposed following a community request for a 20mph speed limit. More information can be found online at: <https://transport.southampton.gov.uk/connected-southampton-2040/20mph-community-requests/>