

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the Cabinet Member may speak in response. The deputation will be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

**(a) Deputation concerning 20mph speed limits – Mr Chris Murgatroyd
(Spokesperson)**

On 4 November 2010 we presented a Deputation asking you to accept the recent Scrutiny Panel's recommendation on 20mph limits in respect of all residential roads and roads used by high numbers of vulnerable users.

Your response on 4 November did not address the points in the Deputation. In your response on 4 November you refused to accept the Scrutiny Panel's recommendation on 20mph limits in respect of all residential roads and vulnerable users. You instead confirmed that you intend to persist with the partial approach set out in your earlier 16 decision on 16 September 2010. You said that the Panel's main recommendation was too broad, would not be supported by the police, and would not comply with the relevant national guidance. But the 4 November Deputation had already addressed these points – demonstrating that the Panel's approach is appropriately broad to ensure consistent results and avoid unfairness, is not opposed by the police, and is perfectly consistent with the relevant guidance. In simply stating that the recommendation was too broad, you also did not give any reasons for your decision, or any indication of what criteria you had applied.

Your only fresh point in your response to the Deputation in the CMM on 4 November was the suggestion that lower speed limits would not lead to lower speeds and so would generate risks from a false sense of security amongst vulnerable road users. It is not clear what evidence this suggestion is based on, and it is very hard to imagine that people would be at greater risk with lower speed limits than they are now from the current excessive 30mph limit. Your suggestion also ignores the importance of an education campaign as part of setting new speed limits, to encourage people not to be lulled into any false sense of security and to continue to take care for their own safety – as they surely would anyway. I'm sure there would be lots of suggestions for how to engage communities in helping to encourage slower speeds alongside implementation of lower speed limits: there would surely be a good deal of community commitment to helping on an issue of such great importance to all residents.

We will welcome your reaction on these points. As residents of Goldsmid Ward we are very concerned about the daily risks from unnecessary speed that residents have to face simply to move about the ward, including walking children to school. Your response on 4 November suggested that roads "in the vicinity of schools" will be prioritised, but it is not clear what this means, or how it will be interpreted: will some schools be prioritised over others? will some routes to

school be deemed more deserving, and prioritised over others? In Goldsmid, for example, children and carers come from many streets over to reach the schools on Somerhill Road. There would be nothing fair about making distinctions between similar, if not identical, roads in Goldsmid, where all residents and vulnerable users have the same experience of unnecessary speed. It would be hard to explain unfairness in defining “in the vicinity of schools” to adult residents, let alone the children living on those roads and using the different routes to school. Goldsmid residents, and residents across the city, need confirmation that “in the vicinity of schools” includes all routes to school.

We will also welcome your response on the ongoing Citywide speed review on non-A+B roads. The Scrutiny Panel recommended that 20mph limits be applied in all streets where speeds are already 24mph or less, and you accepted this recommendation in your 16 September decision. How will the speed limit review measure speeds to ensure that all streets get the 20mph speed limits they deserve, and which you have confirmed they should get by accepting the Scrutiny Panel recommendation on this? The earlier A+B roads report has not yet been released, so it's currently impossible for residents to get access to the data which already exists, to understand what is being done and how the monitoring is proceeding.

The concern over excessive speeds expressed through the 4 November Deputation and in many petitions from Goldsmid residents in recent years will not go away. There is a large body of support in the city for lower speed limits as a fundamental part of generating slower speeds. The thorough and conscientious work of your own Scrutiny Panel also strongly supports this approach – in line with the national guidance and in the interests of all road users. We urge you again to accept those recommendations.