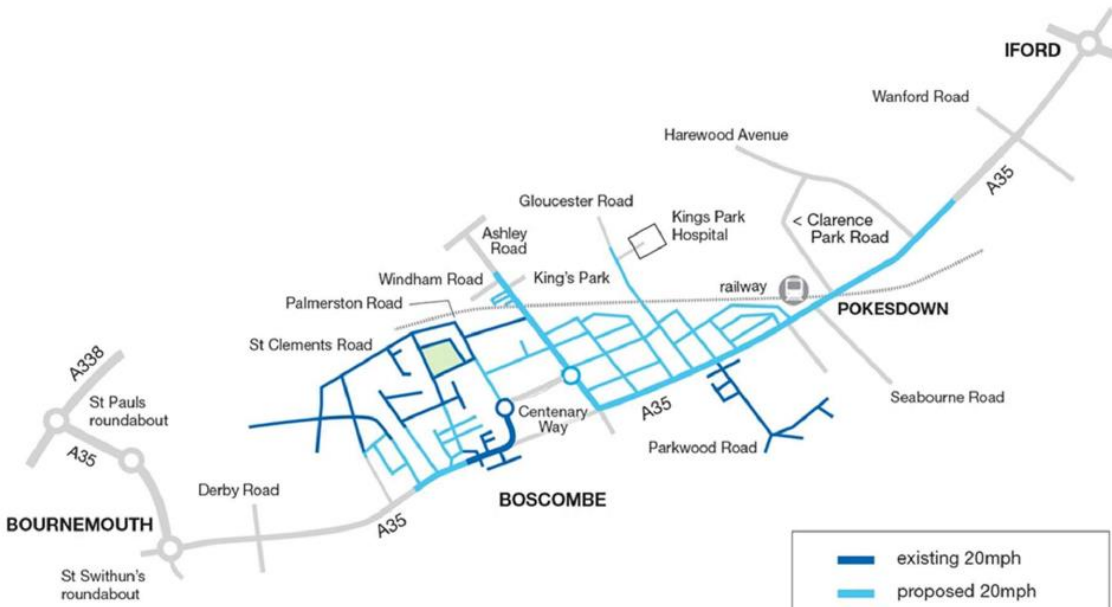


Equality Impact Assessment: Conversation Screening Tool

<p>What is being reviewed?</p>	<p>Safer Roads Fund: Boscombe and Pokesdown 20mph</p> <p>The Department for Transport (DfT) in partnership with the Road Safety Foundation commissioned a nationwide study to identify roads with high casualty rates. In April 2023, following a successful bid for funding, the Council was allocated £1.89m of Safer Roads Fund grant by the DfT for road safety improvement works along the A35 between Iford roundabout and St Pauls roundabout.</p> <p>Between 2017 and 2021 there were 165 collisions along this route resulting in 187 casualties.</p> <p>Several highway safety improvements are being installed as part of the project and the speed reduction from 30 to 20mph is one of the proposals. The 20mph proposal extends the existing 20mph limit as per the following diagram:</p> 
<p>What changes are being made?</p>	<p>Reduction of the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph.</p>
<p>Service Unit:</p>	<p>Planning & Transport</p>
<p>Participants in the conversation:</p>	<p>Damian Lush – Road Safety Team Leader Claire Heaton – Senior Road Safety officer (Education) Richard Barnes – Senior Transport Planner</p>
<p>Conversation date/s:</p>	<p>April 2025</p>
<p>Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?</p>	<p>Residents, business owners and organisations on the statutory consultation list for Traffic Orders including the emergency services – Police, Fire, Ambulances, Taxi associations/operators and DOTS Disability and local bus companies.</p>

<p>Do different groups have different needs or experiences?</p>	<p>The reduction in speed limit should benefit all road users, those that live locally including families, visitors to the area, the young, persons walking and cycling, the elderly and those with mobility issues who use the shared cycleway/ footway.</p> <p>BCP Council is committed to comply with its commitment under Equality legislation and all staff employed within the Council are obliged to follow this commitment. These changes will follow BCP Council's Equality and Diversity Policy and commitment in order to ensure that everyone who uses BCP Council's information, facilities, and services, including those that are provided by others on our behalf, that the Council recognizes that people including all employees are treated fairly, and appropriate consideration is given to individuals who have protected characteristics. The legal duty is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate (stop or prevent) unlawful discrimination • Advance (keep working to improve and promote) equality of opportunity • Foster (create and maintain) good relationships between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not. <p>Disability The proposed changes impact all those using the highway. This includes any individuals with disabilities that could include physical or mental disabilities, learning difficulties, etc. Some individuals may be less able to cross a road because of the speed at which they can travel or the degree to which they can process risk and harm. Therefore, the reduction in speed limit will help these individuals.</p> <p>Socio-economic status In some more socially deprived areas, car ownership may be lower, and this may limit travel choices such that in these areas more people are likely to walk. In more deprived areas there could be a risk that in particular younger children are less likely to be accompanied on their journey to school by an adult although we are not aware of statistics to support that theory. The 20mph limit will make the journey to and from school for these children safer.</p> <p>People from all socio-economic status using sustainable modes of travel will benefit from the proposed speed limit reduction as it will provide them with a safer environment to travel in the area at all times of the day and night every day throughout the year.</p> <p>Gender There is likely to be an equal male – female split in the area and therefore both males and females will be impacted equally.</p> <p>Males of all ages are known to be at greater risk of injury on our roads and this includes pedestrians. Research into this suggests a range of factors however, regarding this specific scenario it is worth noting that this is because males have a greater propensity to take risk and/or may be less able to appreciate the implications of taking such risks.</p> <p>People of all genders will benefit from the proposed speed limit reduction.</p> <p>Age (young/old) Road users of all age groups will travel through this area. Therefore, all age groups are likely to benefit from the proposed speed limit reduction.</p>
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	<p>Other</p> <p>Pregnant women will travel through this area. Therefore, they will benefit from the proposed speed limit reduction.</p> <p>Race and Religion</p> <p>Parishioners visiting any religious establishment in this area, will benefit as it will provide them with a safer environment to use at all times of the day and night, every day throughout the year.</p>
Will this change affect any service users?	This will not negatively affect service units. The positive is that this creates a safer environment for all road users and pedestrians and cyclists using the cycleway/ footway.
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the change on current or potential users?	<p>A reduced speed limit will create a safe road environment for all road users.</p> <p>Reducing the speed limit to 20-mph, is a key factor in reducing the number and severity of collisions according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents - ROSPA. At 20-mph a pedestrian has a 97.5% chance of survival when struck by a vehicle. At 30-mph the chance of survival falls to 80%.</p> <p>Road traffic collisions disproportionately impact the more vulnerable in society – the very young (children), younger, elderly and disabled people. Women who are pregnant and people with young children are also more vulnerable. As an example - in BCP the 2021 Road Safety Report cites the 16-25 yr age group are the most likely to be involved in a Killed or Seriously Injured - KSI Accident, at 27% of all such accidents– yet they form 12% of the total BCP population.</p> <p>Vulnerable Road Users are both more likely to be involved in a collision and also more likely to be hurt more seriously and take longer to recover. Where the speed limit is reduced in an area prone to collisions a positive impact will result for those more vulnerable to collisions. As some evidence suggests, people - especially children who live in more deprived areas are more prone to being involved in a road traffic collision. Where a scheme is implemented in areas of higher social deprivation, benefits are likely to be greater due to a higher collision rates. This is a positive for such areas and their residents.</p> <p>A reduced speed limit will encourage more sustainable travel which will help improve air quality</p>
What are the negative impacts of the change on current or potential users?	Some persons have cited that journey times will be longer and that there could be re-routing through non-20mph areas. However, where the 20mph speed limits have been introduced in other areas of BCP this has not been found to materialise. There are no known negative impacts.
Will the change affect employees?	No.
Will the change affect	Yes. It will provide a safer environment for residents and visitors to the area plus businesses, schools and religious establishments at all times of the day and night.

the wider community?	
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those negatively affected by this change?	Reducing the speed limit may result in a minor increase in journey times. This could be offset by encouraging more people to use sustainable transport thus reducing existing congestion in the area.
Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>In summary, the 20mph proposal will ensure that all road users will benefit from an increased level of road safety resulting from the reduction in speed limit. Lower traffic speeds are expected to make people feel safer when walking and wheeling, thereby encouraging more people to do so for local journeys.</p> <p>The proposal falls in line with BCP Council's targets for carbon reduction and improving facilities for encouraging people to use more sustainable modes of transport.</p>