



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Andrew Gant
Cabinet Member for Transport Management
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
Oxford OX1 1ND

24 January 2024

Dear Cllr Gant

I understand that you will be considering the Council's recommendation to introduce a widespread 20 mph speed limit zone in Banbury tomorrow as the responsible Cabinet Member.

You will be aware of my own reservations about the proposed blanket rollout. My response to the consultation reflected the views of those constituents who had contacted me about the proposals, 82 per cent of whom wished to express their opposition. I know that a similar proportion shared their own opposition directly with the Council.

My constituents tell me there is some support for targeted 20 mph limits in areas including outside schools and on quieter residential streets. However, there is significant concern about a blanket approach given the impact it will have on many of Banbury's key through routes. I note that these concerns are shared by Banbury Town Council and that Thames Valley Police have also expressed concern about enforcing the scheme. I was therefore surprised to see that officers are recommending you ignore these views and approve the policy unamended.

In recent months, the Department for Transport has been clear that any 20 mph limits should be introduced as targeted measures, rather than as a blanket approach, and only where there is explicit local consent. The Council's own guidance also emphasises the need for local support. It is extremely disappointing that rather than engage with the majority of views expressed during the consultation phase, the Council is seeking to move forward with these plans.

These proposals should not be rushed through simply for convenience. Consultation must be meaningful. I hope that you will consider the views of my constituents and urge you to reject these proposals in their current form.

Yours

Victoria Prentis

Rt Hon Victoria Prentis KC MP

Cc: Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Environment and Place, Oxfordshire County Council