Hampshire County Council is considering a formal review of its community-funded 20mph speed limit process after concerns that the current system is too costly, complex and slow for towns, parishes and community groups to navigate

Current policy position
Hampshire's 20mph policy, updated in January 2024, allows Parish and Town Councils to request and fully fund 20mph limits on a full cost-recovery basis, subject to county approval and meeting technical criteria

The review will examine whether this model is working in practice and whether changes are needed to make it more accessible and cost-effective.

Background and concerns
A Universal Services Select Committee motion in July 2026 argued that the existing process places "too many barriers" in the way of communities seeking lower speed limits

Key issues raised include:

- Very low uptake – only one organisation has completed the process since the policy launched in January 2024, despite around 40 expressions of interest
- High costs – under current policy, applicants may have to fund traffic surveys, public consultation, legal traffic orders, signage, maintenance and, in some cases, speed-reduction measures
- Cost escalation – in Romsey, estimates for a town-centre 20mph scheme reportedly rose from ~£30,000 to ~£70,000, prompting debate over value for money
- Delays and uncertainty – some councils, such as Romsey, have postponed decisions due to missing full costings from the county

Proposed review
The council is due to decide next week whether to set up a cross-party task-and-finish group to:

- Review evidence from existing applications
- Assess whether cost, survey requirements and other barriers are preventing successful applications
- Consider improvements to the process

This follows the July motion and reflects a broader concern that the current model may be deterring communities from pursuing 20mph zones.

In summary: Hampshire County Council is set to review its 20mph process after evidence of high costs, low uptake, and procedural barriers. The review will assess whether the current community-funded model can be improved to make 20mph zones more attainable for local communities.