

The Essex County Council (A127 Southend Arterial Road and associated slip roads, Cross District) (Speed Limit) Order 201*

Statement of Reasons

Essex County Council in partnership with Essex Highways is working with Basildon Borough Council who are under a Ministerial Directive to improve air quality on certain lengths of the A127 Southend Arterial Road that have been identified as in exceedance of the EU Directive on the Pollution Climate Map. In particular NO₂ levels have been identified as requiring to be reduced. Air Quality and Traffic Modelling have indicated that the implementation of a 50mph enforced restriction can deliver a reduction in the NO₂ levels in order that they will comply with the Air Quality Directive of max 40µg/m³ by 2021.

Queuing traffic is the primary source of the NO₂ exceedances. By implementing a 50 mph speed limit between the existing 40 mph and 50 mph stretches the traffic will flow more evenly and there will be less stop start conditions and less stationary traffic in queues.

A speed limit reduction also addresses safety concerns on the A127 and has previously been identified as a long term objective to reduce road traffic collisions along the route.

An analysis of the current collision patterns along the route have identified that implementing a consistent 50 mph speed limit from Southend to the Fortune of War supported by an average speed enforcement system will be likely to have a positive effect, reducing the number of personal injury collisions, with associated benefits for the economy and congestion reduction.