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| <p>Reducing the speed limit down to 50mph will only slow traffic speeds outside rush hour periods and could lead to increased congestion.</p> | <p>Pollution is measured over an annual period and takes into account pollution from traffic at all times of the day, not just during peak times. Overall, the best way to tackle the air pollution issue on the A127 to the north of Basildon is to reduce the speed limit.</p> <p>Reducing speeds from 70mph to 50mph can reduce harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) emissions from car exhausts by up to 20 per cent, as well as improving road safety and journey time reliability. Vehicles' engines work most efficiently at around 50mph; vehicles driving below 50mph and above 55mph produce more emissions from their exhausts. While traffic is often slower than 50mph at peak times, having a consistently lower speed limit helps to improve journey time reliability by smoothing the traffic flow, because it reduces the number of times vehicles have to stop and start again. This in turn reduces the time traffic is stationary or moving slowly in queues, and has an air quality benefit as vehicles' engines emit the most NO₂ emissions when they are switched on but not moving or moving slowly (that is why it is so important not to leave your engine running when you are parked).</p> |
| <p>Improvements are needed to the A127, such as road widening, the removal of junctions to improve traffic flow or a completely new road.</p> | <p>South Essex's local authorities and a dedicated task force are working together to agree on what new roads, improvements to existing routes and public transport options will be necessary to meet the planned housing, population and job growth for the area. This is in addition to the work currently underway to look at the long-term vision for the A127 and its surrounding roads. Further information can be found at: www.a127.co.uk.</p> |
| <p>The Fortune of War roundabout is the bigger issue and should be prioritised.</p> | <p>We have been instructed by government to improve air quality on the A127 (to the north of Basildon) to within safe levels for NO₂ as quickly as possible. The quickest way to do that is to reduce the speed limit on that section of road from 70mph to 50mph, as reductions in speed limit can cut harmful nitrogen dioxide emissions from vehicle exhausts by 20 per cent. Further improvements to the A127, which could include changes to the Fortune of War junction, are being considered by Essex County Council in collaboration with a dedicated Task Force, as part of their longer-term work to manage traffic across South Essex.</p> |

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| <p>Air pollution will remain an issue because more houses are being built without consideration of the additional vehicles on the roads.</p> | <p>South Essex's local authorities are working together to agree what new roads, improvements to existing routes and public transport options will be necessary to meet the planned housing, population and job growth for the area. This is in addition to the work currently underway to look at the long-term vision for the A127 and its surrounding roads. Further information can be found at: www.a127.co.uk.</p> |
| <p>It would be more effective to only lower the speed limit during rush hour times or to ban lorries from using the A127 during the day.</p> | <p>Reducing speeds from 70mph to 50mph can reduce harmful Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) emissions from car exhausts by up to 20 per cent, as well as improving road safety and journey time reliability. Vehicles travelling at 50mph produce up to 20 per cent less NO₂ pollution from their exhausts than vehicles travelling at 70mph. That helps improve overall air quality, regardless of the time of day or what the traffic conditions are.</p> <p>Banning HGVs would not have a sufficient impact on NO₂ levels on the A127. More than 75 per cent of all HGVs using the A127 already have Euro 6 engines (which meet TfL's ULEZ requirements). As HGVs are vital to maintain the economy of our area, and for supporting local jobs, it is more effective to encourage more companies to join those who have already upgraded their vehicles to Euro 6 engines.</p> |
| <p>The lower speed limit will cause congestion. Surely if the traffic is moving then air quality would be better.</p> | <p>Vehicles travelling at 50mph produce up to 20 per cent less Nitrogen Dioxide pollution from their exhausts than vehicles travelling at 70mph. That helps improve overall air quality, regardless of the time of day or what the traffic conditions are.</p> |
| <p>Reducing the speed limit will not be effective in improving air quality.</p> | <p>Reducing speeds from 70mph to 50mph on this section of the road has been identified as the quickest way to reduce harmful NO₂ emissions from car exhausts by up to 20 per cent, as well as improving road safety and journey time reliability.</p> |