

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE: 25 OCTOBER 2011**

**REPORT OF: JASON RUSSELL, ASST DIRECTOR  
OPERATIONS, HIGHWAYS AND  
COUNTRYSIDE**



**SUBJECT: SPEED LIMIT IN RED ROAD, LIGHTWATER**

**KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

To consider whether to endorse the Surrey Heath Local Committee's recommendation that the speed limit on Red Road between The Maultway and Lightwater Road be changed from 60mph to 40mph, and for the speed limit of Red Road between Lightwater Road to the Gordon's School roundabout to be changed from 60mph to 50mph. Under the Scheme of Delegation, the authority to endorse a new speed limit when the Local Committee is in disagreement with the Police and local Officers rests with the Cabinet Member.

**DETAILS:**

1. At its meeting on 17 February 2011, the Surrey Heath Local Committee received a petition calling for a reduction in the speed limit along the entirety of Red Road from 60mph to 40mph for road safety reasons. A copy of the report presented to the Local Committee on 30 June 2011 in response to this issue, is attached as **Annex 1**.
2. After considering the petition and the Officer's recommendation that the speed limit be reduced to 50mph, the Local Committee agreed:
  - i) to reject the Officer recommendation and the views of Surrey Police;
  - ii) to approve a reduction in the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph along Red Road between The Maultway and Lightwater Road, and to approve a reduction in the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph along Red Road between Lightwater Road and the Gordon's School roundabout.
3. A majority of Committee members considered that Red Road was dangerous, and that the accidents that have occurred along its length are directly linked to the existing speed limit of 60mph, although this is not supported by accident data, and the previous speed survey undertaken showed that the drivers in general voluntarily drove at speeds slightly in excess of 50mph. Analysis of the voting on the amended speed limit proposal was 5 Committee Members for (all Borough Councillors), 2 County Councillors against, and 1 County Councillor abstention.
4. Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the authority to endorse a new speed limit when the Local Committee is in disagreement with the Police and local Officers rests with the Cabinet Member for Transport.

5. In this case, the Local Committee disagreed with the Officer's recommendation to reduce the existing 60mph speed limit to 50mph.

#### **Consultation**

6. The Local Committee's decision was made in full knowledge of the views of the Police and Council Officers.

#### **Financial and value for money implications**

7. The cost of the proposed measures is estimated at between £20,000 for implementing a 50mph speed limit reduction and £45,000 for the introduction of a 40mph speed limit.
8. No provision has been made to fund this work. It is noted that a speed limit reduction scheme for Red Road has been identified as part of the provisional Safety Engineering programme of works for 2012/13 for delivery through the new £200,000 Countywide Safety Scheme budget. However, this is on the basis of a reduction of speed limit to 50mph, as Safety Engineering will not introduce a speed limit reduction that is contrary to the views of Surrey Police.

#### **Equalities implications**

9. There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

#### **Risk management implications**

10. Objections to the proposal may be received when the traffic regulation order is advertised.

#### **Implications for the Council's Community Strategy priorities**

11. There are no implications arising for the Council's Community Strategy priorities.

#### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

12. The proposed speed limit change will not have any impact on emissions since it is unlikely to result in any significant change in actual vehicle speeds or driver behaviour.

#### **Legal implications/legislative requirements**

13. None.

#### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

14. There are no corporate parenting or Looked After Children implications for this decision.

#### **Section 151 Officer commentary**

15. The Section 151 Officer confirms that all material financial and business issues have been taken into account in this report.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

1. the decision to introduce a 40mph speed limit between The Maultway and Lightwater Road along Red Road is not endorsed,
2. that the recommended outcome proposed by Officers in the report to the Local Committee is approved.

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

As detailed in the attached report, a 40mph speed limit is considered to be inappropriate for Red Road, and is not supported by the Police or Officers.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

The speed limit will remain at 60mph at present. The Surrey Heath Local Committee will be informed of the outcome of this review, and the matter will then be progressed as appropriate dependant on this outcome.

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### **Contact Officer:**

Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager (NW)

### **Consulted:**

Surrey Police  
Cabinet Member for Transport

### **Informed:**

*None*

### **Sources/background papers:**

Surrey Heath Local Committee Report, 30 June 2011, Red Road, Lightwater  
Proposed Change in Speed Limit

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