

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2012

REPORT OF: JASON RUSSELL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
HIGHWAYSSUBJECT: A245 WOODLANDS LANE/WOODLAND ROAD/RANDALLS
ROAD AND C131 OAKLAWN ROAD SPEED LIMIT
ASSESSMENT**KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider whether to endorse the Mole Valley Local Committee's request to reduce speed limits on A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodland Road/Randalls Road and the C131 Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead. Under the County's Speed Limit Policy, the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment is given the authority to endorse a new speed limit which does not comply with the policy.

DETAILS:

1. The Mole Valley Local Committee's approved programme of Integrated Transport Schemes for 2012/13 includes the investigation of a number of roads in the area with a view to reducing the speed limit on them. At its meeting on 12 September 2012, the Mole Valley Local Committee received a report setting out the outcome of the speed limit assessments for the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road and the C131 Oaklawn Road, Leatherhead. A copy of the report presented to the Local Committee is attached as Appendix 1.
2. It should be noted that Woodlands Lane lies within Elmbridge and a report was presented to the Elmbridge Local Committee on 10 September 2012 seeking approval to reduce the speed limit on this section of the A245. The Elmbridge section of the A245 forms the subject of a separate report on this agenda.
3. The table below sets out the current speed limit, the limit being sought by Mole Valley Local Committee, the preferred limit under the Speed Limit policy and the limit recommended by officers to Mole Valley Local Committee for approval.

Road	Current limit	Committee preferred limit	'Preferred limit' under policy	Report recommendation
A245 Woodlands Lane/ Woodlands Road/ Randalls Road	National (60 mph)	40 mph	50 mph	50 mph
C131 Oaklawn Road	National (60mph)	40 mph	50 mph	50mph

4. Under the Speed Limit Policy a Local Committee may decide, exceptionally, to implement a speed limit which does not reduce speeds to a level approaching the new limit. Where the Police object to the proposed speed limit reduction and the local officer recommends against proceeding, the decision should be endorsed by the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, having taken advice from officers and the Police.
5. The Mole Valley Local Committee rejected the officer recommendation to reduce the speed limit on the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road and C131 Oaklawn Road to 50mph. The Local Committee agreed an amended recommendation which was to seek Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment endorsement, in accordance with the Speed Limit Policy, to reduce the speed limit in these roads to 40mph.

Consultation

6. The Police were consulted as part of the speed limit assessment process. The Police view is that they would support a reduction in speed limit on the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road and C131 Oaklawn Road to 40mph.
7. The Cabinet Member Transport and Environment has sought advice from the South East Area Team Manager. The Area Team Manager confirmed that the speed limit requested by the Local Committee does not comply under Surrey's speed limit policy and this was reflected in the original recommendation to Mole Valley Local Committee. However, in view of the support of the Police, the Area Team Manager advised that he would have no issues with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment endorsing the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph.
8. The Cabinet Member also discussed with the Area Team Manager the benefits of introducing measures, where appropriate, to help enforce the reduced speed limit. The Area Team Manager agreed that improvements to signing and the provision of Vehicle Activated Signs could help increase driver awareness and compliance with the speed limit.

Financial and value for money implications

9. In March 2012, Mole Valley Local Committee allocated £45,000 from its Integrated Transport Schemes (ITS) budget 2012/13 to investigate and implement speed management schemes. A further £33,000 of funding for speed management schemes was carried forward from the 2011/12 ITS budget.
10. Local Committee allocated £5,000 towards the cost of the Mole Valley section of the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road speed management scheme and the C131 Oaklawn Road scheme. It has been estimated that the cost of making the Speed Limit Order and installation of the required signs will be in the region of £15,000. The balance of the cost of implementation has been allocated by Elmbridge Local Committee. Detailed design and costing has not yet been carried out. However, if there is a shortfall in funding, the Mole Valley Local Committee has agreed that the Area Team Manager, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman,

would be able to vire money between schemes on the 2012/13 ITS programme.

Equalities implications

11. There are no equalities implications arising from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

Risk management implications

12. Changes to speed limits require the advertisement of a speed limit order. Objections may be received when a speed limit order is advertised. The Mole Valley Local Committee has agreed that consideration and resolution of objections in relation to changes to the speed limit on the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road and the C131 Oaklawn Road be delegated to the South East Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and relevant Divisional Member.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

13. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
14. Reductions in speed limit should have a positive impact on emissions as vehicle speeds are lowered.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

15. Changes to speed limits are introduced through the making of a Speed Limit Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

16. There are no Corporate Parenting or Looked After Children implications resulting from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

Section 151 Officer commentary

17. The Section 151 officer confirms that all material, financial and business issues and risks have been considered in this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment agree that:

1. The Mole Valley Local Committee request to reduce the speed limit on the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road to 40mph be endorsed;
2. The Mole Valley Local Committee request to reduce the speed limit on the C131 Oaklawn Road to 40mph be endorsed; and

3. Measures such as improvements to signing and Vehicle Activated Signs be introduced, where appropriate, to help achieve compliance with the reduced speed limits.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Whilst a 40mph speed limit does not comply with the Speed Limit Policy, it is supported by Police officers and the introduction of additional measures is suggested to help achieve driver compliance with the reduced limits.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

If the recommendations are approved, the reduced speed limits on the A245 Woodlands Lane/Woodlands Road/Randalls Road and C131 Oaklawn Road will be advertised. Any objections will be considered and resolved by the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Mole Valley Local Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and local Divisional Member. The Speed Limit Order will then be made and the scheme implemented by the end of this financial year. Measures to help achieve compliance with the reduced speed limits will be implemented where appropriate.

Contact Officer:

John Lawlor, South East Area Team Manager - email: john.lawlor@surreycc.gov.uk

Consulted:

South East Area Team Manager
Strategic Director Environment and Infrastructure
Strategic Finance Manager

Informed:

None

Sources/background papers:

Mole Valley Local Committee Report, 12 September 2012 – A245 Woodlands Lane/Stoke D'Abernon/A245 Woodlands Road, Leatherhead/A245 Randalls Road, Leatherhead and C131 Oaklawn Road Leatherhead.
