

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL
LOCAL COMMITTEE EPSOM & EWELL
5 March 2012**

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

**Question 1 – Mr Colin Wing
Re: Speed Limit Policy and Low Emission Zone**

Question:

1. At its meeting in September 2010, the Local Committee considered Surrey's proposed updated speed limit policy. What plans does the county have to implement this policy?
2. The Low Emission Zone in Greater London means that high-emission vehicles approaching London on Surrey's roads might have to stay on Surrey's roads for a longer distance to avoid entering the Zone. Does the county have any plans to introduce a Low Emission Zone to prevent this from happening?

Officer Response:

1. The County Council is working to the new policy, detail can be found on the County Council website at:

<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roads-and-transport-policies-plans-and-consultations/roads-and-transport-policies-and-plans/traffic-policy-and-good-practice/speed-limit-policies-and-good-practice/speed-management-policy-including-determining-and-applying-speed-limits>
2. Surrey County Council was consulted when Transport for London initially proposed its Low Emission Zone (LEZ). We agreed to the zone on the basis that it did not create additional problems for Surrey, either by additional lorry movements or by forcing goods operators to use their more polluting vehicles in Surrey.

Initial evidence is that the Low Emission Zone has had a positive effect on pollution levels in Surrey. Most logistics companies operating in the southeast have updated or retrofitted their vehicles to meet the LEZ requirements, resulting in cleaner lorries passing through or around Surrey. This is far more cost-effective for them than making lengthy detours to avoid London. Imminent legislation means that the emission standards required by the LEZ will soon be mandatory for all new goods vehicles. The main effect of the LEZ has therefore been to speed up the introduction of cleaner vehicles in London and the South East.

We do not believe that there is a financial case for a Low Emission Zone in Surrey. It would achieve relatively little and it would be expensive to install and administer. The only vehicles it would affect would be a small number of local businesses running older goods vehicles and public service vehicles.