



# **SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

## **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE (GUILDFORD)**

**20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

### **KEY ISSUE**

To report on the new speed management strategy agreed by Surrey County Council's Executive meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

### **SUMMARY**

The Speed Management Strategy comprises two documents: 'Speed Management Policy' and 'Determining and Applying Appropriate Speed Limits'. It is an integral part of the new Local Transport Plan 2, the Joint Road Safety strategy and the Community Safety Strategy and is intended to reduce injury resulting from road collisions.

### **Report by**

### **Surrey Atlas Ref.**

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

N/A

### **GUILDFORD B.C. WARD(S)**

### **COUNTY ELECTORAL DIVISION(S)**

ALL

ALL

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) that the Speed Management Strategy be noted and should form the basis of all future speed limit assessments in Guildford.
- (ii) that a Speed Management Plan be developed and brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1 The former speed management policy has been used to assess all speed limit proposals since it was adopted in 2002. Copies of the new strategy document are available on request and will shortly be available through the County Council's web pages.

## **THE NEW STRATEGY**

- 2 The new strategy makes clearer and less ambiguous the methods of developing a Local Speed Management Plan. The Plan is used to identify locations where speed is an issue and produce a programme of measures.
- 3 The difference between rural and urban routes is recognised and different approaches are suggested for dealing with these differences. In rural areas without street lighting, preferred speed limits are hierarchical and based on objective data. This will ensure the Parish by Parish reviews are carried out using data collected to enable a consistent approach across the borough.
- 4 Traditionally 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds have been used to make an assessment of an appropriate speed limit. This can be difficult to explain the public and can sometimes be influenced by excessive speeds travelled by a minority of drivers. It is therefore planned to use average speeds instead as it is felt that this is a better reflection of the speed which the majority of drivers perceive as appropriate for the road. This proposed change is included within the new Department for Transport (DfT) Guidelines, which are due to be published shortly. The Department for Transport have intended to publish their new policy for several years.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

- 5 Consultation has been carried out with the AA, RAC and Road Haulage Associations who made no comments. Parish Councils were broadly supportive but felt the strategy could go further in reducing speeds in rural areas. The Association of British Drivers (Surrey) strongly opposes the use of average speeds and has concerns about speed limits being determined locally. Surrey Police are broadly supportive and officers have been closely involved throughout the process.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- 6 It is intended to assess the Parish by Parish Speed limit reviews under the Local Speed Management Plan. Locations raised by the Parish Councils as areas of concern but with no history of casualties, will always be considered but casualty sites will always take priority in programming and budgets.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7 It is anticipated that when the DfT releases the new guidelines on speed management that the resultant publicity will mean an increase in requests for new limits. This will have a resource impact on the Local Transportation Service.

**CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8 It is recommended that the new Speed Management Strategy is used in current and future assessments, and that a Speed Management Plan for Guildford be developed working with Surrey Police and other partners.

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LOCAL TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Speed Management Policy  
Determining & Applying Appropriate Speed Limits

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