



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE  
MOLE VALLEY**

**SPEED LIMIT REVIEWS  
- A24 LONDON ROAD, MICKLEHAM TO DORKING  
- BLACKBROOK ROAD, DORKING**

**03 March 2011**

**KEY ISSUE**

To seek authority to carry out further investigations into reducing the speed limit on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) to 50mph and in Blackbrook Road to 30mph.

**SUMMARY**

The A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) was one of seven speed limit schemes agreed for implementation by Local Committee in June 2009. It was agreed that the speed limit would be reduced to 60mph. Work has not yet commenced on this scheme.

There has subsequently been two fatalities on the A24 and a petition from local residents and businesses requesting the speed limit be reduced to 50mph. To determine if a reduction to 50mph would comply with Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy, further investigation would need to be carried out.

Local Committee on 7 December 2010 agreed to add Blackbrook Road to the committee's list of priority highways works. To determine if a reduction in the speed limit to 30mph would comply with the Speed Limit Policy, further investigation would need to be carried out.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to agree that:**

- (i) Officers are instructed to investigate reducing the speed limit on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) to 50mph and report their findings to the next meeting of the Mole Valley Local Committee.
- (ii) Officers are instructed to investigate reducing the speed limit in Blackbrook Road, Dorking to 30mph and report their findings to the next meeting of the Mole Valley Local Committee

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the Mole Valley Local Committee meeting of 24 June 2009, Members approved the advertisement of the necessary Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) from the existing 70mph National Speed Limit to 60mph. A 60mph speed limit on this section of the A24 would comply with Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy. The scheme was one of seven speed management schemes to be funded from the Integrated Transport Scheme budget over the 5 year period 2009/10 – 2013/14. Work has not yet commenced on the A24 London Road speed reduction scheme.
- 1.2 Since the reduction in the speed limit on the A24 London Road was approved by Local Committee, there have been a further 12 personal injury accidents between Mickleham and Dorking of which 2 were fatalities and 3 resulted in serious injuries.
- 1.3 A petition was considered by Local Committee on 7 December 2010 requesting that the speed limit on the A24 London Road between Denbies roundabout and the Burford Bridge Hotel roundabout be reduced to no more than 50mph.
- 1.4 A question was submitted to Local Committee at the meeting held on 7 December 2010 asking if the County Council would urgently consider the reduction in speed limit from 40mph to 30mph in the most sensitive areas of Blackbrook Road. The request arose following the excessive speeds recorded by the Blackbrook Road Community Speed Watch team. The Committee agreed to add Blackbrook Road to their list of priority highways works.

## **2 ANALYSIS**

- 2.1 Following the two recent fatalities on the A24 London Road, a site meeting was held attended by representatives from the Road Safety Team, Surrey Highways and the Police. The Police were supportive of a reduction in the speed limit and indicated that they would not object to the reduction of the speed limit to 50mph.
- 2.2 The speed limit is already 50mph between Mickleham and just north of Givons Grove roundabout. Local Committee on 24 June 2009 approved the reduction in speed limit on the B2450 Dorking Road (north of Givons

Grove roundabout to Gimcrack Hill) from the existing 60mph National Speed Limit to 50mph. The Police indicated that it would make enforcement more straightforward if the speed limit were to be set to 50mph on the A24/B2450 from Dorking to Gimcrack Hill. This section of the A24 is one of the current Police casualty reduction routes and resources would be made available to enforce a lower speed limit.

- 2.3 Blackbrook Road residents work with the Mole Valley Casualty Reduction Officer to monitor vehicle speeds as part of a Community Speed Watch scheme. Residents estimate that over 35% of southbound drivers and approximately 50% of northbound drivers exceed the speed limit.

### **3 OPTIONS**

- 3.1 A24 Option 1: Implement a reduction in the speed limit on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) to 60mph, as approved by Local Committee on 24 June 2009.
- 3.2 A24 Option 2: Investigate reducing the speed limit on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) to 50mph. Further speed surveys would need to be carried out and another report submitted to the next meeting of the Local Committee.
- 3.3 Blackbrook Road: Investigate reducing the speed limit in Blackbrook Road to 30mph.

### **4 CONSULTATIONS**

- 4.1 The Police have indicated that they would support the reduction in the speed limit on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) to 50mph.
- 4.2 No formal consultation has been carried out with the Police regarding reducing the speed limit in Blackbrook Road.

### **5 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Typically the cost of reducing the speed limit would be in the region of between £15,000 and £20,000, including the associated Traffic Regulation Order. An allocation for speed limits is recommended in a separate item on this agenda.

### **6 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

### **7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Appropriate speed limits, correctly signed, will enable Surrey Police to carry out enforcement.

## 8 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 There is Member commitment to reduce the speed limit on the A24 to 60mph. Following two fatalities and a petition from local residents and businesses, there is public pressure on reducing the speed limit further, to 50mph. Further investigation would need to be carried out to determine if a reduction to 50mph would comply with SCC's Speed Limit Policy. It is therefore recommended that officers are instructed to carry out further investigation and report back to the next Local Committee meeting.
- 8.2 Community Speed Watch data indicates that there are speed management issues in Blackbrook Road. It is recommended that officers are instructed to investigate reducing the speed limit in Blackbrook Road, Dorking to 30mph and report their findings to the next Local Committee meeting.

## 9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To determine if a reduction in the speed limit to 50mph on the A24 London Road (Mickleham to Dorking) and to 30mph in Blackbrook Road complies with Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy.

## 10 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 10.1 Further speed surveys will be carried out and a report submitted to the next Local Committee.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Mole Valley Local Committee  
- 24 June 2009, 7 December 2010

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