



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE**  
(Surrey Heath)

**Surrey Heath Speed Management Programme 2008/09**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

**KEY ISSUE**

To approved the list of sites where the 'Speed Indicating Device' (SID), road safety posters and vehicle-activated signs (VAS) will be used on a rotational basis during 2008/09.

**SUMMARY**

The Local Committee has previously agreed predefined sites around the Borough where road safety posters, SID and VAS are used on a rotational basis to try and reduce vehicle speeds and improve road safety.

Surrey Police support the programme by attending sites where the measures are deployed to provide driver education and, where necessary, enforcement action.

The measures have proved popular with residents and Members. It is therefore proposed that their use is continued.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agree:**

- i. to purchase two new compact VAS signs at a cost of £5,000, to be funded from the Committee's local allocation budget,
- ii. to investigate the full costs of using the existing VAS units at fixed sites,
- iii. a budget provision of £3,000 from the local allocation budget for capital aids to movement works.
- iv. the list of sites for the use of Road Safety Posters, the Speed Indication Device and Vehicle Activated Signs in 2008/09 attached as Annexes A, B & C.

**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. Unfortunately, there are numerous roads across the Borough where complaints are received about speeding vehicles. However, at many of these locations the criteria are not met for the installation of a permanent speed camera and the introduction of physical traffic calming measures would either be inappropriate or difficult to justify.
2. Surrey County Council has therefore developed a Speed Management Programme which aims to influence driver behaviour and improve road safety at locations in Surrey Heath through the use of the following measures:

- Vehicle activated signs (VAS) (displays the speed limit when an approaching vehicle exceeds a set trigger speed).
  - Road safety posters (which can be attached to lamp columns).
  - Trailer mounted Speed Indicating Device (SID) – which is capable of recording and displaying vehicles speeds.
3. In recent years the Local Committee has agreed a programme of sites where these measures have been deployed on a rotational basis. Moving the measures between locations has the advantage of helping to maintain their impact whilst also allowing a larger number of sites to benefit from their use.
  4. The use of the measures is supported by Surrey Police and the local Casualty Reduction Officer has targeted sites for education and enforcement action when posters and signs are displayed.
  5. The initiative contributes towards meeting the objectives of the Surrey County Council/Surrey Police joint Road Safety Strategy and has proved popular with both Members and local residents. It is therefore proposed that a further programme of sites is agreed for the use of road safety posters, SID and VAS during 2008/09.

#### **ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

6. The sites selected for inclusion in the programmes are subject to regular complaints about speeding from local residents or via Members. The sites proposed for road safety posters during 2008/09 are attached as Annex A. The posters will be rotated between sites on a 4-6 week cycle. The sites proposed for the use of SID are attached as Annex B. Surrey Police have agreed to transport the SID between the proposed sites. The sites proposed for the use of VAS are attached as Annex C. The signs will be rotated between the sites and displayed for a period up to 8 weeks.
7. Previous sites at Prior Road, Crawley Hill, Church Hill, Park Road (Camberley), School Road, Kennel Lane, Chertsey Road (Windlesham), and Coleford Bridge Road (Mytchett) have been removed from the poster and VAS programmes. These roads will now be provided with permanent 30mph VAS reminder signs located along their length, funded by Surrey, and installed during March.
8. Surrey County Council currently has 6 VAS for use in Surrey Heath. Although the signs will predominantly be rotated around the sites detailed in 'Annex 3', two of the signs can also be used for community sites. The assessment of requests from residents and the programming of community sites will be carried out by Surrey County Council in consultation with Surrey Police.
9. Continued problems have been experienced with the existing VAS signs used. They are larger and more difficult to install, compared to newer signs currently available, as their weight means that separate posts need to be provided. In addition they have tended to be quite unreliable. Installation requires the use of a tower platform and battery changes require two persons. With the current level of resources it has become noticeable that these units are becoming more difficult to manage on a daily basis.
10. Batteries power the VAS units although more recently they have been aided by solar panels to help prolong the operating life. The solar panels have extended the period the signs are able to operate but even so the units are proving

unreliable. Also sites with nearby vegetation meant that the benefit of the solar panels was negligible. This has resulted in last years programme being delayed and whilst this was also hampered by periods of staff vacancy in the local team a more suitable system of managing the programme needs to be in place to ensure its effectiveness. Employing a contractor to do this is one possible solution although this has revenue budget implications.

11. Surrey Police currently operate their own VAS signs (currently 3 No) and these are newer and have a more compact design. Being lighter and smaller the units can be mounted on lamp columns and signposts and only need to be operated by one person. Battery changes are easier too, being undertaken purely by the casualty reduction officer. These will continue to be operated in conjunction with agreed programmes. The casualty reduction officer has offered to rotate and maintain further units if Surrey were to provide additional compact VAS signs of a similar type used by the Police already. These units cost approximately £2,500 each. This is an option that members may wish to consider as it would remove the need to employ a contractor to manage the rotation and battery replacement of the older style units and avoid ongoing revenue implications.
12. The older style units could still be put to practical use at fixed sites and it is suggested that investigations are carried out to explore the practicalities of doing this with a more accurate cost. Suitable locations would need to be considered and permanent electricity supply estimates sought.
13. Therefore it is recommended that two new compact units are purchased and managed on a daily basis by the Police casualty reduction officer but in accordance with the programme in Annex 3.

### **CONSULTATION**

14. The Speed Management Programme has been developed in conjunction with Surrey Police's Casualty Reduction Officer for Surrey Heath, who has agreed to target sites for education and enforcement action when the signs and posters are displayed. This coordinated approach will help to increase the effectiveness of the measures in deterring drivers from speeding.
15. It should be noted that the Casualty Reduction Officer would continue to attend other sites across the Borough, and not just exclusively those sites targeted by the Speed Management Programme

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

16. The cost of purchasing two new compact VAS units will be about £5,000. Budget provision has been made, for approval, in the Committee's local allocation budget for next year but other funding sources could be considered by members.
17. The cost to convert the old style units to fixed sites would cost between £5,000 and £7,000 but it would depend on the actual sites chosen. If the additional units were purchased then there would be no pressure to install the units immediately and they could be considered throughout the course of the year or as other funding opportunities arise.
18. The maintenance and rotation of the safety posters is estimated to cost £3,000 and whilst this will be met from the aids to movement revenue budget it is recommended that this budget provision be offset from the Committee's local allocation budget to compensate for the reduced level of works.

19. Apart from basic servicing of the trailer itself there are no funding or maintenance implications with regard to 'SID.' Surrey Police will transport the device to individual sites and meet all associated costs.

#### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

20. Surrey has embraced the concept of sustainable development, which is the foundation of the County Council's Local Transport Plan, and it is committed to the vision of making Surrey a better place. The proposed Speed Management Programme will contribute towards making Surrey's roads safer for all users.

#### **CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

21. The Surrey Heath Crime and Disorder strategy seeks to continually improve the safety of the community. The proposed Speed Management Programme, which aims to reduce vehicles speeds and improve road safety, will contribute to the objectives of the strategy.

#### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

22. Across the range of transportation issues and problems to be addressed the needs of all highway users require equal consideration. Proposals may benefit a particular group or individuals but it is important to consider and address how one impact may worsen others.

#### **CONCLUSION & REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

23. The collective use of safety posters, SID and VAS to assist speed management work remain beneficial. However, the unreliability of the VAS units and current resources has interrupted the intended programmes and this needs to be addressed if full benefit is to be gained. As a result it is suggested that new compact VAS units are purchased, which can then be installed and maintained by the casualty reduction officer. This will remove the need to appoint a contractor to manage the VAS and thus reduce the ongoing revenue implications. The existing VAS units should be considered for installation at fixed sites to maximise the use of existing assets.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

24. Subject to agreement the new compact VAS units will be purchased and a programme of rotation will be agreed with the casualty reduction officer for both the VAS and safety poster programmes.

**LEAD OFFICER:** Ian Haller, Local Highways Manager  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 08456 009 009  
**E-MAIL:** [wah@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:wah@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Martin Leppard, Senior Engineer  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 08456 009 009  
**E-MAIL:** [wah@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:wah@surreycc.gov.uk)  
**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None

Version No.3    Date: 25/02/08    Time:14.35    Initials: ILH    No of annexes: 3

Annex A

## Proposed Road Safety Poster Sites for 2008/09

- Guildford Road, Frimley Green.
- Cumberland Road/Inglewood Avenue
- Ambleside Road, Lightwater
- Park Street, Camberley
- Park Road, Camberley
- College Ride, Camberley
- Guildford Road, Lightwater
- Old Bisley Road, Camberley
- Kings Ride, Camberley
- Guildford Road, Bagshot
- Thorndown Lane, Windlesham
- The Avenue – Camberley
- Balmoral Drive, Frimley
- The Avenue, Lightwater
- Whitmoor Road, Bagshot

(Posters will be positioned on each of the above sites for a period of 4-6 weeks).

Annex B

Proposed Sites for Speed Indication Device (SID) for  
2008/09

SID will be deployed where possible on Surrey Heath's current Casualty Reduction Routes.

- A30 London Rd between The Meadows and Sunninghill Road.
- Portsmouth Road between Frimley Park Hospital Roundabout and the Jolly Farmer Junction.
- A322 Between Berkshire County Boundary and Woking Borough Boundary.

Note: In addition to the above 'SID' will also be deployed at sites requested by residents and Members subject to site suitability. The assessment of these requests will be carried out between Surrey and Surrey Police.

**Proposed Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Sites for  
2008/09**

- Old Bisley Road, Camberley
- Windsor Road, Chobham.
- Park Street (Park Road – Railway Bridge).
- College Ride, Camberley.
- Brackendale Road, Camberley.
- Guildford Road, Lightwater.
- Frimley Road, Camberley.
- Portsmouth Road, Frimley.
- The Avenue, Lightwater
- Thorndown Lane, Windlesham
- Queens Road, Bisley
- Upper Chobham Road, Camberley

(Signs will be located at each of the above sites for a period of up to 8 weeks).