



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (Surrey Heath)

Speed Limit Assessments

16th October 2008

KEY ISSUE

To update Committee on progress with the assessment of speed limits in the Borough.

SUMMARY

Speed limit assessments and changes to limits are generally undertaken to improve the overall safety of a road but in some cases even for just environmental considerations. The November 2007 Committee approved changes to speed limits on rural roads in the area of Chobham and further assessments were approved by the Committee for progression in the 2008/09 financial year.

The progress on speed limit assessments has been slower than desired but the necessary schedules and information for advertising have been prepared in respect of the changes to rural limits in Chobham and these will be advertised shortly. Further assessment locations have been progressed to the point of speed data collection only but this will enable the assessments to be carried out in due course.

Resources are now available to the end of the financial year to assist with progression of projects and the intention will be to undertake the outstanding assessments with a view to bringing a report to the March Committee for consideration.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Local Committee (Surrey Heath) notes the current position with regard to the assessment of speed limits in the Borough.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. Speed limit assessments and changes to limits are generally undertaken to improve the overall safety of a road but in some cases even for just environmental considerations. Following requests a view is taken as to whether a speed limit assessment is beneficial. If so, the road or site is added to the assessment list. There are a number of roads in Surrey Heath on the assessment list and generally those roads with higher collision rates are given priority. Sometimes more than one road in an area is to be assessed and this may mean some lesser priority roads being undertaken concurrently with higher collision rate locations.

2. The Committee in November 2007 approved changes to speed limits on rural roads in the area of Chobham following assessment. These have been taken forward for implementation.
3. Earlier this year, the Committee, approved projects and schemes for progression in the 2008/09 financial year. Included within this work were further speed limit assessments. The roads currently scheduled this year (as detailed in the Committee report in March 2008) are:
 - A322 through Bisley & West End villages
 - Ford Road, Bisley
 - Lucas Green/Priest Lane, West End
 - Fellow Green West End
 - Flowers Estate, West End
 - Red Road, West End/Lightwater
 - The Maultway both north and south of Red Road
 - Deepcut Bridge Road – Old Bisley Road to village 30mph limit
 - Old Bisley Road – The Maultway to Edgemoor Road

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

4. Regretfully, due to a vacancy in the Surrey Heath team since the beginning of December 2007 the progress on many projects, including speed limit assessments has been slower than desired.
5. In respect of the speed limit changes, referred to in paragraph (2), already approved by the Committee, then the necessary schedules and information for advertising have been prepared and the proposed changes are due to be advertised very shortly.
6. The proposals referred to in paragraph (3) have been progressed to the point of speed data collection only but this will enable the assessments to be carried out in due course. Resources are now available to the end of the financial year to assist with progression of projects and the intention will be to undertake the assessments with a view to bringing a report to the March Committee for consideration.
7. A number of other locations have been requested for speed limit assessment and the priority is reviewed regularly and taken forward for consideration by members, subject to budget availability. Roads currently waiting assessment (but in no particular order) are:
 - A30 London Road – near Lupin Close to Knightsbridge Road
 - B386 Chertsey Rd, W'sham – near Brickmakers Arms PH to B383 Windsor Rd
 - Queens Road, Bisley
 - Castle Grove Road, Chobham
 - Scotts Grove Road, Chobham/WestEnd
 - Red Lion Road
 - Guildford Road, Frimley Green
 - Stonehill Road, Chobham
 - A319 Chertsey Rd, Chobham - from current 40mph to Borough Boundary
 - A331 Blackwater Valley Road
 - B3029 High Street & Guildford Road, Bagshot

- Benner Lane, West End

CONSULTATION

15. This is undertaken at an early stage with the Police with wider consultation as part of the statutory processes required for traffic orders relating to proposals.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Funding is currently available from the 2008/09 local allocation budget for speed limit assessment work but further budget provision would be required in future years to progress and implement any subsequent speed limit changes approved.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. 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

18. Speeding is identified as a main concern for residents in Surrey Heath. Surrey remains committed to working with the Surrey Police to tackle issues of speeding and to improve speed management measures wherever possible.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

19. 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.

LEAD OFFICER: Ian Haller, Local Highways Manager

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 08456 009 009

E-MAIL: wah@surreycc.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: Ian Haller, Local Highways Manager

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 08456 009 009

E-MAIL: wah@surreycc.gov.uk

BACKGROUND None

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