

## **Speed Limit Review Guidelines**

There is a 4-step process to reviewing an existing speed limit within Surrey.

### **Step 1: Determine the length of road to be considered.**

Referring to the DfT guidelines the minimum length for a speed limit on a road should generally be not less than 600m so as to avoid too many speed limit changes that could be confusing to motorists. In exceptional circumstances this length could be reduced to 400m for lower speed limits, or even 300m on roads with a purely local access function.

### **Step 2: Determine the preferred speed limit.**

For the purpose of setting speed limits, urban areas are defined in national legislation as those with a system of street lighting columns not more than 183m (200 yards) apart. Rural areas are defined as those areas without street lighting. In both cases an appropriate speed limit is determined by considering the function of the road, paying particular attention to vulnerable road users. Compromises may have to be made according to local conditions, and in consultation with Surrey Police.

### **Step 3: Compare the new speed limit to existing speeds.**

After determining the preferred speed limit for a section of road, an assessment of existing speeds is required. Speed surveys are carried out at specific locations within the section of road being assessed, analysing traffic in both directions.

If the preferred new speed limit is the same as the existing speed limit, then the limit will not be changed.

If the preferred new speed limit is lower than the existing speed limit a decision needs to be made whether the new speed limit can be introduced successfully on its own, whether other speed reducing measures will be required to achieve the appropriate average speed for the new speed limit, or whether the existing higher speed limit should be retained.

If the preferred new speed limit is higher than the existing speed limit, then caution is exercised before raising the existing speed limit, as this could be detrimental to road safety.

Any proposed changes to the existing speed limit will be undertaken in consultation with Surrey Police.

### **Step 4: Monitoring.**

After implementation of any new speed limit, careful monitoring of speeds will be required to ensure that the new speed limit is effective.