



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(WAVERLEY)**

**EXPERIMENTAL SPEED LIMIT: B2133 LOXWOOD ROAD,
ALFOLD TO COUNTY BOUNDARY**

16 MARCH 2012

KEY ISSUE

To approve making a Traffic Regulation Order which will make permanent the current experimental 40mph limit on the B2133 Loxwood Road between Alfold Village and the boundary with West Sussex.

SUMMARY

West Sussex County Council has made permanent a 40mph experimental speed limit on the Loxwood Road southwards from the county boundary. A similar experimental 40mph speed limit is in place within Surrey northwards from the county boundary to the 30mph limit at Alfold village. Unless this order is made permanent the speed limit here will revert to the national limit of 60mph. The road is currently signed at 40mph within both counties.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to authorise a Traffic Regulation Order making permanent the current 40mph experimental Order on the B2133 Loxwood Road between the boundary with West Sussex and the existing 30mph speed limit at Alfold village.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In late 2010 West Sussex County Council (WSSC) promoted a 40mph experimental traffic order on the Loxwood Road southwards from the boundary with Surrey (previously 60mph).
- 1.2 At its meeting of 17 December 2010 the Local Committee agreed that a similar 40mph experimental traffic order be made on the Loxwood Road northwards from the county boundary to the existing 30mph speed limit on the outskirts of Alfold village. This was done solely to avoid this short section of road remaining at 60mph between the existing 30mph through the village, and the WSSC 40mph south of the county boundary.
- 1.3 WSSC paid for installing all speed limit signs associated with the experimental 40mph speed limits within both counties, so the road is now signed at 40mph southwards from Alfold Village.
- 1.4 In December 2011 the WSSC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation authorised the making of a permanent traffic order for the 40mph experimental limit within West Sussex.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 If Surrey County Council (SCC) does not make permanent the experimental 40mph limit within Surrey, the speed limit northwards from the county boundary will revert to 60mph. The likelihood is that this will result in an increase in speed of northbound traffic approaching Alfold village, since drivers entering a 60mph limit from a 40mph limit within West Sussex are likely to accelerate.
- 2.2 It should also be noted that the length of the section of Loxwood Road between the county boundary and the 30mph limit at Alfold village is 375m. The Department for Transport recommends that the minimum length for a signed speed limit is 600m so an isolated 60mph limit here would be well below the standard length.
- 2.3 As reported at the meeting of 17 December 2011, SCC officers consider that a 50mph permanent speed limit can be justified and introduced under SCC's speed limit policy.
- 2.4 Officers consider that Surrey County Council has little alternative than to make permanent the experimental 40mph limit within Surrey.

3. CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Surrey Police has been consulted and, in view of the fact that the 40mph limit within West Sussex will be made permanent, fully support making the 40mph limit within Surrey permanent.

4. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of advertisements making a permanent 40mph limit is expected to be around £1,500.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities or diversity implications for this report.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no crime and disorder implications for this report.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As above.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 As above.

9. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Officers will take action to implement the Committee's decision.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None