Member Question from Will Forster (Woking South):

Under Rule 178 of the Highway Code, it is an offence for motorised vehicles to choose to enter and stop in an Advanced Stop Line area.

Please could the Chairman confirm what powers the County Council and the Police have to enforce Advanced Stop Lines?

Transport for London would like to enforce Advanced Stop Lines with cameras, would this Council consider that use cameras to enforce Advanced Stop Lines in Surrey?

Response:

The County Council do not have any powers to enforce advanced stop lines for cyclists. This is a criminal offence and so would be enforceable only by the police. The contravention would be enforceable in the same way as the contravention of a normal stop line by a motor vehicle, which would usually result in a fixed penalty notice £100 fine and 3 penalty points on the driving licence. The only exception is if the lights change from green to amber and the driver is unable to stop in time for the first (advanced) stop line. Therefore it is usually the case that in practice the police need to see the motorist pass the first advanced stop line into the box reserved for cyclists while the lights were red to confirm that an offence has been committed.

It is feasible for the police to use red light enforcement cameras to enforce advanced stop lines. These work through the use of in-ground vehicle detectors positioned just beyond a stop line that will trigger a camera to take a picture if it detects a vehicle moving beyond a stop line at the same time as the red light is showing. Therefore it would be feasible to position the in-ground detectors just beyond the first advanced stop line. However new camera units cost in the order of £50,000, and one camera would be required for each stop line. Therefore the council's policy is to invest in red light cameras only in agreement with the police at collision hot-spots where there has been a history of collisions and evidence of red light contraventions.

David Harmer
Select Committee Chairman

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