



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

**A319 Chobham Road, Ottershaw
Speed Limit Assessment
26 November 2012**

KEY ISSUES

To report the outcome of a speed limit assessment undertaken along the A319 Chobham Road, Ottershaw (between the Borough Boundary and the start of the 30mph speed limit) and seek authorisation to advertise and implement a reduction in speed limit to 50 mph.

SUMMARY

A speed limit assessment has recently been undertaken for A319 Chertsey Road (between Chobham Park Lane and the Borough Boundary) in Surrey Heath. The section of the A319 Chobham Road in Runnymede between the Borough Boundary with Surrey Heath and the start of the 30mph speed limit (near the junction with Chobham Close) was also considered as part of the assessment.

The lengths of road assessed are currently subject to national speed limit (60mph) and are rural Surrey County distributor roads.

The 'preferred limit' for the assessed lengths of road has been determined as 50mph (based on the appropriate hierarchy from Surrey's speed management policy) and Surrey Police has confirmed it has no objection to the existing speed limit being reduced to 50mph.

Having considered the results of the assessment, the Surrey Heath Local Committee has given its authorisation to advertise a reduced 50mph speed limit on Chertsey Road.

This report details the findings of the speed limit assessment and asks the Runnymede Local Committee for authorisation to also advertise a reduced 50mph speed limit on Chobham Road.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the results of the speed limit assessment undertaken.
- (ii) approve the advertising of a Traffic Regulation Order the effect of which will be to introduce a 50mph speed limit over the length of the A319 Chobham Road from the start of the existing 30mph speed limit (near its junction with Chobham Close) to the Borough Boundary with Surrey Heath (as shown in Annex 1 attached to this report):
- (iii) approve the revoking of any existing Traffic Orders necessary to implement the above change;
- (iv) approve that any objections to the Traffic Regulation Order should be considered and resolved by the Area Team Manager for Highways in consultation with the Divisional Member and Chairman, and that this issue only be returned to Committee if any objections prove insurmountable;
- (v) approve that once any objections have been considered and resolved, that the Order be made.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 As part of Surrey Heath Local Committee's agreed programme of ITS schemes for 2012/13, a speed limit assessment has recently been undertaken for the section of the A319 Chertsey Road (Chobham) that is currently subject to National Speed Limit (60mph). The relatively short length of the A319 Chobham Road in Runnymede that is subject to National Speed Limit was also considered as part of the assessment.
- 1.2 Having considered the results of the assessment and the comments from Surrey Police, the Surrey Heath Local Committee agreed (at its meeting held on 18 October 2012) that SCC should advertise a TRO which will have the effect of reducing the speed limit to 50mph on the section of Chertsey Road between Chobham Park Lane and the Borough Boundary with Runnymede.

2.0 ANALYSIS

Speed Limit Policy

- 2.1 Surrey's policy for determining speed limits was updated in November 2010 and consists of the following 4 step approach:
- Step 1 – Determining the length of road or roads to be assessed; giving consideration to start and end points, and road features.
- Step 2 – Determining the preferred speed limit. Each road is considered under its respective location category: urban or rural. The road is then assessed against a number of factors to determine the preferred speed limit.
- Step 3 – Comparison of the preferred limit to existing speeds. This determines whether drivers are likely to comply with the 'preferred limit'. Where existing speeds are at, close to, or below, the preferred limit then changes would be considered appropriate. Where existing speeds are significantly above the 'preferred limit' then either an appropriate higher limit is recommended, the existing limit retained, or speed management measures are introduced to achieve speeds closer to the preferred limit. Step 3 of this process is conducted in close discussion with the Police so that collective agreement can be reached on the implications of the 'preferred limit'.
- Step 4 – Monitoring of a change in speed limit to ensure the level of compliance is satisfactory. A review of this information will then take place including the possibility of introducing speed management measures to ensure compliance.

Length of Road Being Assessed

- 2.2 The length of A319 Chertsey Road in Surrey Heath that has been assessed extends from the start of the existing 40mph speed limit (near the junction with Chobham Park Lane) to the Borough Boundary with Runnymede. This section of road is currently subject to National Speed Limit (i.e. 60mph for a single car).
- 2.3 Once the A319 passes into Runnymede it changes name to Chobham Road but it initially retains the same character and speed limit. The speed

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limit then becomes 30mph on the approach to Ottershaw where the road changes character with a much greater density of residential development.

- 2.4 The section of the A319 Chobham Road in Runnymede between the Borough Boundary and the start of the 30mph speed limit was therefore also assessed to ensure a consistent speed limit is retained over the whole length of road.
- 2.5 Both Chertsey Road and Chobham Lane were assessed as a County distributor within Surrey’s highway network

Existing Vehicle Speeds

- 2.6 As part of the assessment, traffic surveys were undertaken at 3 separate locations (2 on the A319 Chertsey Road and one on the A319 Chobham Road).
- 2.7 The results of the surveys are shown in the following table:

Road	Average daily flow	Average 85%ile speed (mph)	Average mean speed (mph)
Site 1 – Chobham Road	7751	54.0	46.9
Site 2 – Chertsey Road	7398	54.3	47.0
Site 3 – Chertsey Road	6982	52.8	45.5

- 2.8 The 85th percentile speed is the speed at which 85 percent of vehicles are travelling at or below.
- 2.9 In accordance with Surrey County Council’s Speed Limit Policy, mean speeds rather than the traditional 85th percentile are now used to determine local speed limits, as it is considered that mean speed measurement is more straightforward and better reflects the actual speeds on the road.

Personal Injury Collisions

- 2.10 There have been a number of personal injury collisions over the lengths of road under assessment.
- 2.11 The table below shows the total number of personal injury collisions for the assessed lengths of road in the last 5 full years together with the latest available data for the current year.

Year	Number of collisions
2007	8
2008	11
2009	8
2010	6
2011	6
2012 (Up to Aug)	4
Total	43

- 2.12 The table below shows the severity of the personal injury collisions over the investigation period.

Severity	Number of collisions
Slight	38
Serious	5
Fatal	0

- 2.13 Of the 43 accidents that occurred over the investigation period, 36 happened along Chertsey Road, 7 happened along Chobham Road and a total of 11 had excessive speed recorded as a contributing factor.

Preferred Speed

- 2.14 Under Step 2 of the policy, the table below indicates the 'preferred limit' based on the hierarchy of preferred speed limits contained in Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy:

Road	Current limit	'Preferred limit'
A319 Chertsey Road/A319 Chobham Road	National Speed Limit (60 mph)	50 mph

- 2.15 Under Step 3 of the policy, the table below indicates the mean speeds against the preferred limits.

Road	Mean speed	'Preferred limit'
A319 Chertsey Road/A319 Chobham Road	46.5 mph	50 mph

- 2.16 The above table indicates that the majority of drivers travel at speeds below the "preferred limit" and therefore, if supported by Surrey Police, a reduction in speed limit would be appropriate.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Surrey Police has confirmed it has no objection to the proposed reduction in speed limit for either Chertsey Road or Chobham Road and that a change over the whole length would ensure continuity in the speed limit.

4.0 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of changing any speed limit includes legal advertisement costs associated with the statutory process, together with the costs of design and implementation.
- 4.2 The total cost of implementing the proposed 50mph for both Chertsey Road and Chobham Road is approximately £15,000.
- 4.3 Extending the new 50mph speed limit to include the section of A319 Chobham Road in Runnymede will result in little, if any, increase in overall cost. The Surrey Heath Local Committee has therefore agreed to fund the implementation of the proposed speed limit reduction over the whole length of road and there would be no cost contribution required from the Runnymede Local Committee.

5.0 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

6.0 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Speeding traffic has been identified as a major concern for residents in Surrey. SCC remains committed to working in partnership with Surrey Police to tackle issues of speeding and improving road safety through the implementation of a combination of appropriate enforcement, education and engineering measures.

7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 This report details the speed limit assessment conducted, and how the 'preferred limit' has been obtained.
- 7.2 It is recommended that the speed limit is reduced to 50mph on those lengths of the A319 Chertsey Road and the A319 Chobham Road considered as part of the assessment.
- 7.3 The Surrey Heath Local Committee considered the results of the assessment at its meeting on 18 October 2012 and approved a reduced speed limit of 50mph on the A319 Chertsey Road.
- 7.4 The Runnymede Local Committee is therefore now being asked to approve a reduced speed limit of 50mph on the A319 Chobham Road. This will ensure a consistent speed limit is retained over the complete length of road.

8.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The recommendations have been made based upon the results of a speed limit assessment carried out in accordance with Surrey County Council's speed limit policy.

9.0 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Subject to approval being granted by the Runnymede Local Committee, a Traffic Regulation Order would be formally advertised (with public notices displayed in the local press and on site) for the proposed reduction in speed limit on both Chertsey Road and Chobham Road.
- 9.3 Any formal objections to the Order would have to be considered. Subject to no irresolvable objections being received the 50mph speed limit would then be introduced.

LEAD OFFICER: Andrew Milne
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Jason Gosden
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk
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