

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND FLOODING**

**DATE: 10 JUNE 2015**

**REPORT OF: JASON RUSSELL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS**

**SUBJECT: A283 PETWORTH ROAD, MILFORD SPEED LIMIT ASSESSMENT**



### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE**

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider whether to endorse the Waverley Local Committee's request to reduce the speed limit on A283 Petworth Road, Milford. Under the county's Speed Limit Policy, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding is given the authority to endorse a new speed limit which does not comply with the policy.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding agree that:

1. The Waverley Local Committee request to reduce the speed limit to 30mph on the A283 Petworth Road between the Cherry Tree roundabout and the existing 30 mph speed limit near Milford Heath Road is not approved; and
2. The recommended outcome proposed by officers in the report to the Local Committee is approved.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A 30mph speed limit does not comply with the Speed Limit Policy and is not supported by the Police or officers.

### **DETAILS:**

1. The Waverley Local Committee's programme of integrated transport schemes for 2014/15 included the investigation of the A283 Petworth Road, Milford between Cherry Tree roundabout and the existing 30 mph limit by Milford Heath Road, with a view to reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph. At its meeting on 12 December 2014, the Waverley Local Committee received a report on various speed limit assessments carried out in the Borough, including the outcome of the assessment for this road. Officers recommended that, based on the evidence, no change be made to the speed limit.
2. The Local Committee rejected the recommendation and is seeking approval from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding to reduce the

speed limit to 30mph, the Committee's preferred speed limit. Members were mindful of the officers' recommendation that the existing 40 mph limit should remain but noted the wish of local residents and Witley Parish Council that the limit should be reduced to 30 mph, thereby creating consistency along this stretch of road.

3. The table below sets out the current speed limit, the limit being sought by Waverley Local Committee, the preferred limit under the Speed Limit Policy and the limit recommended by officers to Waverley Local Committee for approval. The average recorded speed is 39.62 mph (40 mph) and the maximum speed the requested limit can be installed without additional measures (urban) is 35mph. A 5 mph reduction in speed is required before the limit can be reduced in line with Surrey County Council (SCC) policy

Road	Current limit	Committee preferred limit	'Preferred limit' under policy	Report recommendation
A283 Petworth Road	40 mph	30 mph	40 mph	40 mph

4. Under the Speed Limit Policy, a Local Committee may decide, in exceptional circumstances, to implement a speed limit which does not reduce speeds to a level approaching the new limit. Where the Police object to the proposed speed limit reduction and the local officer recommends against proceeding, the decision should be made by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding, having taken advice from officers and the Police.
5. The Waverley Local Committee rejected the officer recommendation that the speed limit on the A283 Petworth Road remain at 40mph. The Local Committee agreed an amended recommendation which was to seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding in accordance with the Speed Limit Policy in order to reduce the speed limit on this road to 30mph.

### Consultation

6. The Police were consulted as part of the speed limit assessment process. The Police view is that the A283 Petworth Road should have its speed limit set in line with the preferred limit as determined by Surrey's Speed Limit Policy. The Police have formally objected to the lowering the speed limit to 30 mph and have confirmed that if the limit is lowered no routine speed enforcement will be undertaken at this location in accordance with the Association of Chief of Police Officers (ACPO) policy.

### Financial and value for money implications

7. If approved, the Waverley Local Committee would allocate funds from the 2015/16 Integrated Transport Schemes programme to cover the cost of implementation, which is estimated to be approximately £6000.

### Equalities implications

8. There are no equalities implications arising from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

#### **Risk management implications**

9. There will be no risk management implications arising from a decision to retain the existing 40mph speed limit. If a decision is made to reduce the speed limit, the advertisement of a speed limit order will be required. Objections may be received when the speed limit order is advertised. The Waverley Local Committee has authorised delegation of authority to the Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Local Committee and the local Divisional Member to resolve any objections received in connection with the speed limit proposals considered on 12 February 2015.

#### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

10. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
11. Reductions in speed limits should have a positive impact on emissions as vehicles speeds are lowered.

#### **Legal implications/legislative requirements**

12. Changes to speed limits are introduced through the making of a Speed Limit Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

#### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

13. There are no Corporate Parenting or Looked After Children implications resulting from changes to speed limits on the public highway.

#### **Section 151 Officer commentary**

14. The Section 151 officer confirms that all material, financial and business issues and risks have been considered in this report.

<b><u>WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:</u></b>
----------------------------------

If the recommendations are approved, the speed limit will remain at 40mph. The Waverley Local Committee will be informed of the outcome of this review.

---

#### **Contact Officer:**

John Hilder, South West Area Team Manager - email: [john.hilder@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:john.hilder@surreycc.gov.uk)

#### **Consulted:**

South West Area Team Manager  
Strategic Director Environment and Infrastructure

**Sources/background papers:**

Waverley Local Committee Report, 12 December 2014- Update on Integrated  
Transport Programme 2014/15

---