

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 13 DECEMBER 2012

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



SUBJECT: SPEED LIMIT IN BLACKHORSE ROAD, WOKING

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider whether to endorse the Woking Local Committee recommendation that the speed limit in Blackhorse Road, Woking, be changed from 40mph to 30mph. Under the Scheme of Delegation, the authority to endorse a new speed limit rests with the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Environment when a Local Committee decision is in disagreement with the Police and Surrey Highways Officers.

DETAILS:

Business Case

1. During its meeting on 26 September 2012, the Woking Local Committee received a report from Surrey Highways Officers entitled 'Blackhorse Road – Speed Limit Assessment.' A copy of this report is appended as Annex 1. Details of personal injury collisions for Blackhorse Road will be tabled at the meeting.
2. The report presented an assessment of the speed limit in accordance with County Council policy, and an analysis of the acquired speed data and accident history.
3. The report concluded that the appropriate speed limit for Blackhorse Road was 40mph, in accordance with County Council policy, and recommended that the speed limit was not reduced to 30mph.
4. The report also highlighted that the accident history was not speed related, and was largely a cluster of non speed related accidents at one junction, which had already been identified as a scheme on the local ITS programme.
5. It was emphasised during the Committee meeting that reducing the speed limit to 30mph would be contrary to County Council policy, and would create a local anomaly that may lead to demands for inappropriate speed limits in other locations. Also, that it is highly unlikely reducing the speed limit to 30mph would have any positive impact on public safety, or lead to a reduction in the speeds at which vehicles travel without the introduction of physical measures.
6. Committee determined to approve the introduction of a 30mph speed limit for the following reasons:

- i) Members believe that there have been a number of serious accidents, and may have been more fatalities than set out in the report.
- ii) A petition was presented to this committee a few years ago signed by nearly 1000 people, and residents views need to be taken into account. **NB: It should be noted that this petition called for traffic calming in the vicinity of the junction of Blackhorse Road with Saunders Lane, and did not call for a speed limit reduction.**
- iii) Speeding is an issue along sections of the road and Members believe more could be done to address this.

Councillor Will Forster proposed an additional recommendation, which was seconded by Cllr Kingsbury and agreed by the Committee, which was to consider the Blackhorse Road, Heath House Road and Saunders Lane crossroads for safety improvements under its Integrated Transport Scheme Programme.

No note was made of the voting details, but it is believed that these decisions received unanimous support.

Consultation

- 7. Consultation was carried out with Surrey Police, who are in agreement that no further action should be taken with regard to the speed limit, which should remain at 40mph.

Financial and value for money implications

- 8. The cost of implementing a speed limit reduction to 30mph is estimated to be £7000. Undertaking this work would not provide value for money as this would not provide the expected benefits. If this work were to proceed, it would need to be funded from the Local Committee capital ITS budget, and, as no provision has been made for this during the 2012/13 financial year, provision would need to be made in 2013/14 if this remains a priority for the Local Committee and the Cabinet Member endorses the decision made by the Local Committee.

Equalities implications

- 9. There are no equalities implications arising from this decision.

Risk management implications

- 10. If the decision is made to support the introduction of a 30mph speed limit, objections to the proposal may be received when the Traffic Regulation Order is advertised, and Surrey County Council may need to demonstrate why it has deviated from its own policy.
- 11. Further, introducing a 30mph speed limit at this location could lead to demands for inappropriate speed limits at other locations.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

12. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
13. The introduction of a 30mph speed limit will not have any significant impact on emissions since it is unlikely to result in any significant change in actual vehicle speeds or driver behaviour.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

14. None.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

15. None.

Section 151 Officer commentary

16. The section 151 officer confirms all material, financial and business and risks have been considered throughout the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

- a) the decision to introduce a 30mph speed limit in Blackhorse Road is not endorsed.
- b) the recommended outcome proposed by officers is approved.
- c) the Woking Local Committee is asked to support the proposal to carry out a feasibility and design study to look at targeted safety improvements at the junction with Blackhorse Road and Saunders Lane where the majority of accidents have occurred as part of their 2013/14 ITS programme.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

As detailed in the attached report, a 30mph speed limit is considered to be inappropriate for Blackhorse Road, as it is contrary to County Council policy, contrary to the advice of the Police and Highways Officers, and unlikely to result in any public safety benefit. Carrying out a feasibility and design study for safety improvements at the junction where the majority of accidents have occurred is likely to positively address the concerns of Members and local residents.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

The speed limit will remain at 40mph. The Woking Local Committee will be informed of the outcome of this review, and the matter will then be progressed as appropriate dependant on this outcome.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Surrey Police

Informed:

Sources/background papers: N/A
