

## **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **Item under consideration:**

**Call-in of Cabinet Member decision, 21 November 2012**

**Date considered: 10 December, 2012**

1. The Select Committee considered call-in of the following Cabinet Member decision:

“That the Elmbridge Local Committee request for a reduction of the current speed limit on the A245, Stoke Road, Stoke D’Abernon, from its existing 40 mph, to 30 mph, between the existing 30 mph limit near Leigh Hill Road to a suitable point just east of the Chelsea Football Club training ground, not be endorsed”.

### **Key points:**

2. The Members who called-in the decision explained that they did so because they felt that Stoke Road was largely residential and should have a 30 mph limit. They were also of the view that Local Committees were best placed to recognise local circumstances and that by not taking this into account the Cabinet Member made the wrong decision, despite the advice of Surrey County Council Highways officers and the police.
3. Surrey Police were invited to comment and stated that they did not support the view of the Local Committee because collision data from the last three years did not suggest that there were any significant speed-related safety concerns. A further issue raised, was that a reduction in the speed limit to 30 mph would result in the removal of all speed signage along the road, and this would make the speed limit on the road unclear to drivers as the environment did not suggest that a 30 mph limit was appropriate. As a result this could create additional safety concerns, and the police would have difficulty enforcing the new limit because of resourcing issues. This view was also supported by Surrey Highways officers.
4. Surrey Police added however that they did not formally object to the Local Committee’s request to lower the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph. The Chairman asked for clarification as to how often the police formally objected to speed limit proposals and the Committee was informed that this only happened in exceptional circumstances, where a high risk may arise to public safety. Therefore, the usual stance for the police in these cases was to provide advice for the Cabinet Member’s consideration as to whether they supported or did not support a proposed speed limit.
5. Following further discussion, by a vote of 7 to 3 in favour, the Select Committee resolved to support the call-in and refer the Cabinet Member decision back for reconsideration.

### **Resolved:**

That the Select Committee refers the decision of the Cabinet Member, made on 21 November 2012, not to endorse the Elmbridge Local Committee’s request for a reduction of

the current speed limit on the A245, Stoke Road, Stoke D'Abernon, from its existing 40 mph, to 30 mph, between the existing 30 mph limit near Leigh Hill Road to a suitable point just east of the Chelsea Football Club training ground, back to the Cabinet Member for reconsideration.

**Steve Renshaw**

**Environment and Transport Select Committee Chairman**