



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE AND BANSTEAD)

SUTTON LANE, BANSTEAD - SPEED LIMIT ORDER

4 MARCH 2013

KEY ISSUE

To authorise the advertisement of a speed limit order for the existing length of national speed limit of 60mph in Sutton Lane, Banstead.

SUMMARY

In June 2012, following a request from the London Borough of Sutton, Reigate and Banstead Local Committee agreed to extend the existing 30mph speed limit at the northern end of Sutton Lane, Banstead by 150 metres. To bring this change into effect, the existing speed limit order for the section of Sutton Lane to the south of the 30mph has to be amended. This section of road is subject to the national speed limit of 60mph. As it has not been possible to locate a copy of the existing order, it is proposed to revoke all existing orders on that section of Sutton Lane and make a new speed limit order. This report seeks Local Committee approval to set aside an objection to this proposal and make the new order.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Reigate and Banstead) is asked to:

- (i) Set aside the objection to the advertised speed limit order set out in paragraph 3.3 for the reasons given in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5 of the report; and

- (ii) Authorise the making of a speed limit order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which will be to apply the national speed limit of 60mph on that length of Sutton Lane, Banstead which extends from a point 10 metres north of Freedown Lane northwards to a point 61 metres north of Highdown Lane.
- (iii) Approve that consideration and resolution of any further objections received be delegated to the South East Area Team Manager in consultation with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Divisional Member.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The junction of Sutton Lane/Downs Road/Cotswold Road in the London Borough of Sutton has been identified as having a poor personal injury collision record and Sutton has recently carried out accident remedial works at the junction.
- 1.2 LB Sutton approached Surrey County Council to request the extension of the existing 30mph speed limit in Sutton Lane southwards by a distance of approximately 150metres, towards Banstead, to reduce vehicle speeds further in advance of the junction. The extension of the 30mph speed limit was approved by Local Committee in June 2012, together with the provision of a Vehicle Activated Sign. These works are being funded by the London Borough of Sutton.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Sutton Lane is street lit along its entire length and so, by virtue of this system of street lighting, the speed limit is 30mph unless a speed limit order is made and the appropriate signing erected to introduce a different limit. The speed limit in force south of the 30mph speed limit is signed as the national speed limit of 60mph. A location plan is attached as **Annex 1**, showing the extents of the speed limits in Sutton Lane.
- 2.2 To extend the 30mph speed limit, as previously agreed by Local Committee, the existing speed limit order for the national speed limit section of Sutton Lane has to be amended. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to find a copy of the order in the County's records.
- 2.3 It is therefore necessary to revoke all existing orders on the section of Sutton Lane between a point 61 metres north of Highdown Lane and a point 10 metres north of Freedown Lane and make a new order to bring into effect the national speed limit of 60mph. This course of action removes any uncertainty about the legality of the existing national speed limit in Sutton Lane and enables the Police to carry out enforcement action if necessary.

- 2.4 Time constraints on the funding from the London Borough of Sutton to carry out this work has meant that the new order has been advertised in line with the previous Local Committee decision. This report considers an objection received in respect of this advertisement and seeks approval to make the order.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Police have been consulted and have no objection to the proposal to the extension of the existing 30mph speed limit and therefore, the revised length of national speed limit.
- 3.2 The Belmont Residents' Association have not objected to the advertised speed limit order but have requested that the 30mph speed limit be extended further south to beyond Highdown Lane. The length of the extension of the 30mph was agreed with the London Borough of Sutton, who is promoting this scheme. It is an appropriate length given the existing speeds on this section of Sutton Lane and the intention of the change, namely to slow vehicles on the approach to the junction of Sutton Lane with Downs Road and Cotswold Road.
- 3.3 An objection has been received from a resident of Sherwood Park Road, Sutton. Whilst supporting the extension of the 30mph limit, the resident objects to retaining the national speed limit on the remainder of Sutton Lane to Freedown Lane. The resident considers this to be an inappropriate speed for a short stretch of rural road between two built up areas, that it makes it less likely that drivers will slow down to 30mph when they reach the urban limit, and that it should be reduced to 40mph.
- 3.4 The section of national speed limit covered by the advertised order is approximately 830 metres in length, which exceeds the minimum length for a speed limit of 600m as set out in Surrey's speed limit policy. There are no property frontages along this section of Sutton Lane and for the 3 year period November 2009 to October 2012, the latest records available, there has been one reported personal injury accident involving a single vehicle in which speed was not reported as a contributory factor.
- 3.5 The views of the Police have been sought regarding the suggested reduction of the national speed limit to 40mph. The Police have confirmed that the existing 60mph speed limit reflects the nature of the road and does not require enforcement. In their view, reducing the limit from 60mph to 40mph may cause an enforcement issue through non-compliance. They further comment that the road does not currently have a casualty problem and therefore would not be subject to regular enforcement. For these reasons, the Police have confirmed that they would support the retention of the 60mph limit as shown in Annex 1.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The London Borough of Sutton has signed an agreement under section 8 of the Highways Act 1980 to fund costs associated with the implementation of this scheme.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Highway Service is mindful of its needs within this area and attempts to treat all users of the public highway with equality and understanding.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 A well-managed highway network can reduce fear of crime and allow the Police greater opportunity to carry out their enforcement duties.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The extension of the existing 30mph speed limit in Sutton Lane southwards by a distance of approximately 150metres, towards Banstead, was agreed by Local Committee in June 2012. In order to bring this change into effect, it is necessary to amend the existing speed limit order. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to find a copy of the existing order.
- 7.2 To resolve this issue, it is proposed that all speed limit orders relating to the national speed limit section of Sutton Lane be revoked and a new order made. This will remove any uncertainty about the legality of the existing national speed limit in Sutton Lane and enables the Police to carry out enforcement action if necessary.
- 7.3 The speed limit order has been advertised as approved by Local Committee on 12 June. One objection has been received which suggested that the speed limit should be lowered from 60mph to 40mph. Given the nature of the road, the good casualty record and the concerns of the Police regarding non-compliance should the speed limit be lowered, it is recommended that the objection be set aside. It is recommended that Local Committee approve the making of the new speed limit order for Sutton Lane.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 To enable the implementation of the amendment to the speed limit in Sutton Lane, Banstead, as agreed by Local Committee in March 2012.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Subject to Local Committee approval, the speed limit order will be made and the revised speed limit and accompanying measures implemented.

LEAD OFFICER: John Lawlor, Area Team Manager (SE)
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICER: Anita Guy, Engineer
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 03456 009 009
E-MAIL: highways@surreycc.gov.uk
BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

This page is intentionally left blank