Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee
2 February 2016

Proposal to consult on the introduction of 20mph speed limits in all residential and town centre roads within the Surbiton Neighbourhood

Report by the Head of Environment

Purpose
Following a resolution at Council on 4 November 2014 the Committee has the authority to consult on a 20mph limit covering the Surbiton Town Centre area. This report seeks the Committee’s approval to extend that consultation to include all non-primary routes (that is, excluding Ewell Road, Portsmouth Road and Upper Brighton Road) across the whole of the Neighbourhood.

Under recent constitutional changes, the results of such a consultation would be reported to a future meeting of this Committee for comments. Should the Committee then endorse the scheme then a final decision on whether or not to implement the scheme will need to be made by the Residents’ Committee.

Recommendation
To resolve that a consultation is held on introducing a 20mph limit to cover all residential roads - that is, all roads excluding Ewell Road, Upper Brighton Road, Portsmouth Road & Hook Road, within the Surbiton Neighbourhood.

Key Points
A. An existing Council resolution gives authority to the Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee to consult on the introduction of a 20mph limit covering the Surbiton Town Centre area. The area is shown in detail in Annex 1.

B. This report seeks the Committee's approval to extend the proposed 20mph area to include all non-primary routes - i.e. all roads in the Neighbourhood except ‘A’ and ‘B’ roads.

C. There would be a number of exceptions to this, with the vast majority of ‘B’ roads already having 20mph limits, and some existing sections on ‘A’ roads too. In summary, the proposed 20mph limit would include all roads in the neighbourhood except Upper Brighton Road, Ewell Road (except the existing section of 20mph near Our Lady Immaculate School) and Portsmouth Road.

D. Whilst the results of any consultation or consultations would be returned to the Neighbourhood Committee, under the Council's constitution, a decision on whether or not to implement any scheme(s) is subject to the agreement of the Resident’s Committee.

Background
1. In 2014, a consultation was held on introducing a 20mph limit across the Surbiton Town Centre area. The details of the area are shown in Annex 1. The consultation took the form of a letter to all affected households - including business premises - inviting them to comment. It did not include a questionnaire.

2. The proposed scheme was approved by the Neighbourhood Committee in September 2014. The matter was requisitioned under the provisions of Paragraphs (A) (2) (i) (a) & (b) of the General References and Delegations to Committees for consideration by a full Council meeting.

3. At full Council, a revised scheme was approved, with 20mph limits to be introduced within 100 metres of accesses to schools (including pre-schools and nurseries) within the original scheme consultation area. A scheme on theses lines, with variations approved by both the relevant Lead Members (for Environment and Transport and Capital, Projects and Contracts) and the Neighbourhood Committee at its meeting in January 2015, was implemented in March 2015.

4. Additionally, the full Council meeting gave its approval to carry out a further consultation - this time including a questionnaire - on the scheme covering the whole town centre, once a review of the Council’s consultation processes and policies, due to be held in 2015, was completed. This review was completed in November 2015, and so we are now in a position to carry out that consultation.

5. In December 2015, Officers were approached by the Chair of this Committee, requesting that consideration be given to introducing a 20mph limit in all residential roads across the Neighbourhood, excluding primary routes - that is ‘A’ and ‘B’ roads. This report is the result of those considerations.

Proposal and Options

6. Annex 1 shows the extent of Surbiton Neighbourhood, and the roads which would be included in a 20mph scheme covering all residential roads. Annex 2 lists all ‘A’ and ‘B’ class roads in the Neighbourhood and comments on their status - existing 20mph limit, within the existing town centre consultation area, recommended for inclusion in consultation on a 20mph limit or recommended for exclusion to be excluded any consultation on a 20mph limit at this time.

7. Seperately, a petition was submitted to the Council requesting a 20mph limit for St. Matthew’s Avenue. A report recommending that consultation be held on a scheme for this road was approved by this Committee in October 2015. It is recommended that this is included in the wider consultation, should the wider consultation be approved.

8. No new traffic calming measures are being proposed as part of the scheme. There is existing speed data available for many roads within the
consultation area, and Officers will be collecting further data over the coming months to measure existing speeds.

Consultations

9. Records indicate there consultation across the recommended areas would include approximately 14,500 business and residential addresses. Including roads already within existing 20mph, the total rises to around 20,000.

10. Discussions have been held prior to this meeting with Cllr. Self, in his role as Chair of the Neighbourhood Committee and Cllr Andy Johnson, in his role as Engagement and Consultation Lead to discuss what form the consultation or consultations should take, and it is felt that all residents across the Neighbourhood should be included in the consultation, since the wide area covered means that all residents will be affected.

11. In terms of the format of the consultation, the proposed wording for the consultation question is “Do you support the introduction of a 20 mph limit in all residential and town centre roads across Surbiton Neighbourhood?”.

12. Given the size of area involved, and the staff time that will be involved, it is recommended that the proposals be consulted on as three separate areas of roughly equal size, although the results should be reported to a single Committee cycle, to avoid any issues around results in one area prejudicing consultations in another. Although subject to further discussions, the suggested areas are:

- Town Centre and Surbiton Hill Ward
- Berrylands and Alexandra Ward as far as Elgar Avenue
- Alexandra Ward from Elgar Avenue southwards, including Sunray Estate

Timescale

13. The areas already approved for consultation - that is the Town Centre and St. Matthew’s Avenue. Should the proposed additional consultation areas be approved, it is anticipated consultation could be held in Autumn

Resource Implications

14. The costs of producing and distributing documents and materials for consultation over this size of area is estimated at £14,000 - £16,000. This can be funded from within the Surbiton Neighbourhood Revenue budget and existing LIP (Local Implementation Plan) funding allocation from TfL (Transport for London) for 2016/7.

15. Given the scale of the proposed consultation there is a further implication on staff time in terms of the analysis and preparation of the committee reports and annexes. It is anticipated that this would require
comprehensive officer commitment over an extended period, which could have an on impact the wider Team work programme.

Risk Assessment

16. The introduction of 20mph speed limits will promote the message of road safety in these residential and town centre roads and help reduce the risk of road traffic accidents. The scheme does not involve any additional physical speed reducing features and should reduce the risk and severity of accidents to the benefit of the whole community.

Network Implications

17. The proposals will not affect network capacity, since only a small proportion of the journey times are down to how long it takes to drive along particular roads - most of it is down to delays at junctions which are unaffected by speeds in this context.

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- September 2014 - Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee Meeting
- November 2014 - Full Council Meeting
- January 2015 - Surbiton Neighbourhood Committee Meeting