

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

LEAD MEMBER – COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY
POLICY SUMMARY

LOCAL SPEED LIMITS	PS05/02
<p>PURPOSE OF POLICY</p> <p>To achieve a safe distribution of speeds consistent with the speed limit that reflects the function of the road and the road environment</p>	
<p>SPECIFIC POLICIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On trunk roads, speed limits (in common with other orders regulating traffic) are the responsibility of the Department for Transport (DfT), through its executive agency, Highways England. The County Council has no jurisdiction over this class of road. 2. On all other roads Orders are made by the County Council subject to the statutory requirements for the advertisement of the proposals and considerations of any objections. 3. The principle determinant of a proposed speed limit should be the appearance and character of the road as described in Appendix A. 	
<p>SUPPORTING STATEMENT</p> <p>Adherence to the criteria ensures consistency in the introduction of Local Speed Limits on a countywide basis and supports the work that has been undertaken with neighbouring authorities. It is recognised that, where appropriate, a lower speed limit can assist in the reduction of the number and severity of casualties and help to improve environmental aspects and quality of life for local residents. Reference should always be made to the latest national guidance available.</p>	
<p><u>References – Further Information</u></p> <p>Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 Department for Transport – Circular Roads 01/2006 Department for Transport – Circular Roads 02/2006 Department for Transport – Traffic Advisor Leaflet 1/04 Department for Transport – Traffic Advisory Leaflet 2/06 Department for Transport- Circular Roads 01/2013 H & T Committee – Agenda Item 10 H & T Committee – Agenda Item 18 Cabinet Committee – Agenda Item 5 Lead Member for Transport and Environment – Agenda Item 11 Lead Member for Communities & Safety– Agenda Item 31</p>	<p><u>Date of Approval</u></p> <p>17.03.1993 19.10.1994 15.11.2000 25.06.2007 16/03/2018</p>

SPECIFIC POLICIES (CONTINUED)

4. Subject to paragraphs 5 and 6 below, villages may be considered for the introduction of a 30 mph speed limit in accordance with recommendations of DfT guidance for setting local speed limits providing that there are 20 or more properties served by private accesses which adjoin the main road (on one or both sides of the road), located over a length of not less than 600 metres, and clearly visible to drivers.
5. Speed limits should be set in accordance with the table below :-

Speed Limit	Average Speed Below
20	24
30	33
40	42
50	52
60	62

6. Where the average speed is above the figures quoted in paragraph 5 for a particular speed limit being investigated then, subject to available resources, either :-
 - a) Where the history of injury crashes at the site justifies the necessary expenditure, engineering measures appropriate to the function of the road should be investigated to reduce vehicle speeds below the figures quoted in paragraph 5 for a particular speed limit. If this can be achieved a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the proposed speed limit may then be made in conjunction with the introduction of engineered measures.
 - b) Where engineering measures are not appropriate due to the function of the road or cannot be justified by the history of crashes a TRO may be considered for a higher limit than that originally proposed which reflects the speed quoted in paragraph 5.

7. 20mph Speed Limits and Zones

20mph speed limits or zones can positively contribute to quality of life and encourage healthier modes of transport such as walking or cycling. They can also help in creating a sense a place, better serving the local communities' needs. However, to ensure that they are effective, they will only be pursued if the following general criteria are met: -

- a) It can be demonstrated that there are clear benefits to be gained in terms of casualty reduction, particularly involving vulnerable road users;
- b) The lower limit is an integral part of either an area wide traffic calming scheme, a School/ Community Safety Zone or a Town Centre Management Scheme; and
- c) The lower limit is effectively self-enforcing

Proposed Speed Limit Criteria – Route Assessment

Below gives an indication of appropriate speed limits, reference should be made to the latest Department for Transport guidance for more detailed information.

SPEED LIMIT/ CHARACTER OF ENVIRONMENT	CHARACTER OF ROAD	TRAFFIC COMPOSITION
20 mph Speed Limit		
Town centres, residential areas, in the vicinity of schools	Constrained in terms of vehicle movement with existing conditions or engineered features influencing vehicle speed with available alternative routes for through traffic	Mean vehicle speed below 24 mph High proportion of vulnerable road users in direct conflict with traffic
30 mph Speed Limits		
Built up areas, visible properties with frontage access, the road giving a clear indication to drivers of the need to reduce speed	Urban streets Roads through villages and identified rural settlements with 20+ visible properties within a 600m length	Mean vehicle speed below 33mph Significant number of vulnerable road users in conflict with vehicular traffic
40 mph Speed Limits		
Less built up areas, set back properties with frontage access indicating to drivers the need to reduce speed	Urban Suburban distributor roads buildings set back from the road Rural Roads through villages and identified rural settlements over a minimum length of 600m	Mean vehicle speed below 42mph Urban Vulnerable road users segregated from road space Rural A noticeable presence of vulnerable road users
50 mph Speed Limits		
Limited frontage development	Higher quality urban distributors with few points of access Low standard classified roads	Mean vehicle speed below 52mph
60 mph Speed Limits (Dual Carriageways)		
Limited frontage development	High standard rural classified roads	Mean vehicle speed below 62mph

Note: Vulnerable road users include pedestrians (particularly children, the elderly and disabled) and cyclists.