

Scrutiny Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny Board
Date of Meeting:	1st March 2021
Subject:	Highways, Speed and Speed limits
Report Author:	Steven Lain, Service Manager, Highways

Purpose

1. To update members on the setting of speed limits and the enforcement of these when set under a legal framework.

Recommendations

2. None, for review only.

Report

LBC policy on setting of speed limits.

3. The setting of speed limits is covered by the Speed Management Report, attached as an appendix and was prepared prior to the recently digitised cameras, but the policy for setting speed has not changed.
4. Luton is for the most part deemed built up and therefore the normal speed limits by default would be 30mph. Lower speed limits can only be set by the Secretary for State except 20mph that we have set in many locations near to schools.
5. In other areas where 20mph schemes have been trialled, the results have shown that accidents still occur, the enforcement of the limit is difficult with speed still a concern of those that are unable to manage an environment with moving traffic.
6. Police generally find enforcing limits a limited way to use their resource, using engineering solutions as preferable. This requires a significant investment in structural changes in road layout and then to fund the upkeep of the schemes through Revenue, something that most Highway Authorities struggle with in these times of reduced budgets.
7. *Progress with digitising safety cameras*, all cameras have now been converted to digital operations, there has been some delays in finalising this work with the supply of the required equipment but we hope that very shortly all sites will be operational. Below is the list of our sites with the type of camera at each site, all of these are however now managed by the Beds Police Camera Unit.

B579 Toddington Rd	Bi-directional
B4540 Farley Hill Luton	Bi directional
A505 Stuart St/ Wellington St	Uni dirctnl D/C
A5228 Montrose Ave	Bi directional Reversed
A5228 Montrose Ave	Bi directional
Sundon Park	Bi directional
A505 Hitchin Rd Stopsley	Uni dirctnl D/C
Crawley Green Rd	Front only
Crawley Green Rd	Bi directional
A505 Dunstable Rd nr Beresford Rd	Bi directional
A505 Dunstable Rd nr Humberstone Rd	Red Light SOG
A505 DUNSTABLE ROAD	Red Light SOG
A505 DUNSTABLE ROAD	Red Light SOG
A505 Stuart St / Cardiff Rd	Red Light SOG

8. *Financial responsibilities for purchase & installation of cameras/ equipment, all of the speed cameras have been funded by Capital investment from LBC as part of the current agreement with Bedfordshire Police and the safety camera partnership.*
9. *Maintenance of the speed cameras* falls to LBC, the new digital cameras are all *supplied* and will be maintained by Truvelo. The exception being the average speed cameras on Airport Way and the latest scheme introduced along Dunstable Road from Jct 11 heading towards Dunstable, this has only recently been completed and handed to Beds Police.
10. *Processing fixed penalty notices & prosecutions*, all fixed penalty notices are issued by the Police under the Road Traffic Act. The process for the issue, penalty and endorsement of licence is covered by the appendix attached.
11. *Following up non-payments of penalties*, this is not the responsibility of LBC, it is either part of the Camera Partnership or the Courts.
12. *Who gets to keep the fines/FPN payments?* All fines are paid to the Fixed Penalty Office, linked to Bedfordshire Police and to the Home Office.
13. *Responsibilities for enforcement where there are no cameras.* As with all matters where the Road Traffic Act is broken, such as speeding, the enforcement is carried out by the Police, this can be by either a patrol set up at an accident zone or at a site where speeds are occasionally known to be broken, the camera partnership use a mobile camera at these locations.

14. *Some stats please over a reasonable period; all of the areas in question below are managed by Beds Police alone.*

How many camera related FPNs issued in 30mph areas?

How many paid.

How many in 20mph areas?

How many paid.

Same stats for numbers of non- Camera offences.

15. *Update on the Police Speedwatch scheme. No Speedwatch surveys are currently being carried out and none are planned due to the restrictions on meetings and definition of essential.*
16. *Current speed limits are confusing and a mess so future plans for rationalising*
17. *For discussion but the areas with changes to the normal 30mph have to be signed at the entry and at intervals until leaving the areas. Clarity is a major consideration of the enforcement of speed limits therefore much attention is given to ensure compliance.*
18. *Future plans for enforcing speed limits - We will continue to work with Beds Police to review those sites where it is considered that speed may be affecting the numbers of accidents in an area. Police are concerned at the number of 'Pool' cars that are used by groups with little regard for safety and fail to take any notice of speed limits.*
19. *These are the situations that unfortunately lead to tragic outcomes, recent cases are being reviewed but no simple fixes will resolve these. Police do not feel cameras are the answer to those that intend to ignore speed limits as they often drive without a licence, insurance or a legally registered vehicle.*

Proposal/Option

20. *Involvement of Beds Police, roads safety and camera partnership team*

The enforcement of speed limits and the process of imposing fines (FPN's), collection of the fines falls to the Police, a review of their process and procedure may well assist members, a suggestion of a follow up meeting with Bedfordshire Police Camera enforcement team is suggested.