

**The Essex County Council (Various Roads, Epping Forest)
(Combined Speed Limits) Order 202***

STATEMENT OF REASONS

As part of its commitment to improving road safety, Essex County Council has secured funding from the Department for Transport Safer Roads Fund to improve road conditions along the A104 Epping New Road through Epping Forest and Buckhurst Hill. The main aim of the scheme is to provide a homogenous safer road environment for all road users navigating the A104 through the section administered by Essex County Council seeking to provide consistent and compliant road user speeds throughout both rural and urban sections.

In seeking to achieve compliant and consistent road user speeds, it is proposed to install average speed cameras along the length of the A104 administered by Essex County Council across both the 30mph and 40mph speed limits. Average speed cameras require a minimum length to operate over which necessitate extending the existing 30mph speed limit from its current northern extent near the junction with Fernside. It is also proposed to include a reduction of the existing 40mph speed limit at the junction with Ranger's Road to 30mph, improving the process for vehicles to navigate the junction and addressing the associated recorded high collision rate at this location. The proposed 30mph speed limit is therefore proposed to extend to the north of the Ranger's Road in order to maintain a consistent speed limit over a reasonable length of road and enabling average speed camera enforcement to encourage compliance consistency across the length of the speed limit.