

Report

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Report to:	Road Safety Forum
Date of Meeting:	16 June 2010
Report by:	Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	20mph Speed Limits
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ seek the Forum's support to develop guidelines to ensure that the various types of 20mph speed limits are introduced in a consistent manner across the Council area.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendations:-

- (1) that the guidelines for determining the most appropriate type of 20mph speed limit for various circumstances is supported.

3. Background

- 3.1. Lowering vehicle speeds in residential areas to approximately 20 mph has a proven record of reducing casualty numbers and severity. Lower speeds also encourage more people to walk or cycle, including on the journey to and from school. 20 mph speed limits can therefore be an effective road safety measure if they are applied in a logical and consistent manner.
- 3.2. As with all speed limits it is essential that drivers understand why the limit is in place, otherwise low levels of compliance can be anticipated. It is therefore important that 20mph speed limits are introduced only at appropriate locations and the use of these guidelines will help to achieve this.
- 3.3. The two areas where 20mph limits are appropriate are outside schools and in residential areas.
- 3.4. There are basically four types of limit that can be used
 - Advisory 20mph limits, i.e. "Twenty's Plenty".
 - Mandatory 20mph limits which are appropriate where the nature of the road environment restricts speeds to less than 25 mph.
 - Mandatory 20mph zones which can be used where traffic calming is in place.
 - Part-time mandatory 20mph speed limits outside schools.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that the following guidance is used in determining the appropriate type of 20mph speed limit initiative to be introduced for a specific location. The guidance takes into account the 85percentile speeds surveyed on the road prior to a 20mph limit being introduced. This is the speed under which 85% of vehicles travel. The use of 85percentile speeds is recommended by national guidelines. We are however in discussion with the Scottish Government in an attempt to get the guidance changed so that mean speed, not 85 percentile speeds, can be used in determining the appropriate speed limit.

4.2. Outside schools

- Where 85 percentile speeds are greater than 36mph then introduce part-time mandatory 20mph. Although the speed of vehicles will be the main consideration the strategic nature of the road will also be taken into account.
- Where 85 percentile speeds are in the range 31 – 36 mph use advisory limit with additional Vehicle Activated Signs to encourage drivers to adhere to the 20mph limit during school times.
- Where 85 percentile speeds are in the range 25 – 30 mph use advisory limit.
- Where 85 percentile speeds are less than 25 mph use 20mph mandatory speed limits.

4.3. For residential areas

- If traffic calming is in place then create a 20 mph zone
- Where 85 percentile speeds are restricted, by the nature of the road environment, to less than 25 mph use 20 mph mandatory speed limit
- Where 85 percentile speeds are between 25mph and 30mph advisory 20mph limits are appropriate.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. The use of the guidelines will be done utilising existing staff resources.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. These guidelines will not on their own have any financial implications for the Council. However, we will have to prioritise the implementation of any initiatives in line with available funding.

6. Other Implications

6.1. None.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

7.1. Although this report recommends a change to an existing policy this policy area has been screened for equalities issues and is not relevant to the Council's equalities duties and therefore no impact assessment is required. Statutory consultation will be required as part of the promotion of the mandatory 20mph limits. Local members will continue to be consulted about the introduction of advisory 20 mph limits.

Colin McDowall

Executive Director (Enterprise Resources)

7 June 2010

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values

- Improve community safety
- Improve the road network and public transport

Previous References

Bullet point list or None

List of Background Papers

None.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect any of the background papers or want any further information, please contact Mick Halligan

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