

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

MANDATORY 20MPH SPEED LIMITS AT SCHOOLS

Report By Executive Director of Development & Property Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of proposals for the implementation of mandatory 20mph speed limits in the vicinity of schools in the Kilmarnock South Local Area.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 **Mandatory 20mph Speed Limits** - On 26 September 2003, the Transport Minister announced new ring fenced awards for all Scottish Local Authorities to promote 20 mph speed limits in the vicinity of schools and other road safety projects to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. The Council's allocations are:-

2003/2004 - £117,000

2004/2005 - £257,000

2005/2006 - £257,000

There has not been a previous allocation specifically for the implementation of 20 mph speed limits.

In 2003/04 the allocation was used to accelerate two traffic calming schemes at schools which already had the approval of the Development Services Committee. In each case a 20mph limit is being promoted.

- 2.2 At the Development Services Committee on 4 May 2004 it was agreed to consider the promotion of mandatory 20 mph limits at all schools throughout the Council area in consultation with Strathclyde Police, Schools, and the local community. Priority would be given to schools, which are adjacent to roads, which have previously been traffic calmed and also those adjacent to the busier main routes.

It was also agreed that because of the significant workload of the traffic section, a suitably qualified consultant would be commissioned to review the need for 20mph limits at schools throughout East Ayrshire and draft the required Orders.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Twenty mph speed limits can play an important role in protecting vulnerable road users. By improving safety around schools and residential areas it is hoped to encourage more people to walk and cycle. The introduction of the lower speed limits will also help to meet the government targets to halve the number of children killed and seriously injured by 2010 and reduce the numbers of all fatalities and serious injuries by 40%.

3.2 In June 2004 the consultant JMP was commissioned to assess the need for 20mph limits in the vicinity of schools in East Ayrshire, to carry out consultations and to design the 20mph zones and any further associated traffic calming that may be needed.

Within this study the following aspects were to be considered :-

(i) A review of the existing safety measures in the vicinity of schools and proposals for future works programmes for CWSS and 20 mph speed limits.

(ii) Traffic Calming Schemes to be identified which will assist in the implementation of 20mph Zones at schools.

(iii) A programme for the implementation of 20mph Zones

3.3 Mandatory 20mph speed limits can either be full time or part time. Part time speed limits are generally considered to be more appropriate on the principal strategic routes and do not require to be accompanied by traffic calming. The part time limits would operate for a period at the start of the school day, lunch time and the end of the school day. Specific traffic signs are approved by the Scottish Executive for this purpose.

3.4 The following schools within the Kilmarnock South Local Area have been investigated and proposals for 20mph speed limits have been drafted :-

Bellfield Primary School
Kirkstyle Primary School
Shortlees Primary School

Appendix A contains plans showing the proposals for 20mph speed limits with a key indicating where full and part-time limits are proposed.

3.5 JMP have carried out an initial consultation with the Heads of Schools prior to preparing draft proposals for 20mph speed limits. Strathclyde Police have been consulted in the course of preparing the design of the proposals for the

legally enforceable mandatory speed limits. Local Councillors have also been consulted. Strathclyde Police have indicated their support for the proposals in all cases.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 In the course of the statutory process for promotion of the 20mph speed limit orders consultation will also take place with Community Councils, Councillors, Police, emergency services, other interested groups and the public.

5 TIMESCALE

- 5.1 It is proposed that the 20mph speed limits described in the report will be implemented by 31 March 2006 in accordance with the budgetary timetable set out by the Scottish Executive.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The implementation of speed limits will be funded from existing budgets.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The speed limit orders will be promoted in accordance with the requirements of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999. The Statutory process for promoting an Order includes extensive consultation and a period of advertisement during which the public has the right to make objections. The timescale for a straight forward order is generally approximately 9 months. However, this time can be significantly increased if there are objections from the public.

In addition, when appropriate, a Road Humps Notice will be processed under the terms of the Road Scotland Act 1984 and regulations made thereunder.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the committee :-

Considers the proposals for the mandatory 20mph speed limits and traffic calming as outlined in Section 3.

James Lavery
Executive Director of Development Services

NB
20 August 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information please contact Neil Bell on 01563 576310