

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE – 16 DECEMBER 2003

20 MPH SPEED LIMITS AT SCHOOLS

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to: -

- (a) inform the Committee about the current guidance from the Scottish Executive on mandatory and advisory 20mph speed limits
- (b) and to request the Committee to agree the principles of producing a programme of introducing 20mph speed limits at schools.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Legislation, introduced in 1999, gives local authorities the power to introduce 20 mph zones. The legislation also gives local authorities the power to promote 20 mph speed limits, with or without traffic calming, at suitable locations.

Following the legislation, the Scottish Executive provided guidelines on mandatory and advisory speed limits. The guidelines allow for the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit at suitable locations. The requirements are that a mandatory 20mph speed limit can be introduced without traffic calming where the speed of 85% of drivers is no higher than 24 mph and where the character of the road and environment convey the message to most drivers that 20mph is the most suitable speed. On roads where the speeds are higher, traffic calming is generally required. Recent guidance from the Minister for Transport, however, indicates that he will be supportive of the introduction of a mandatory 20mph limit outside schools.

2.2 Since 2000 the Scottish Executive has provided ring fenced funding for East Ayrshire Council to promote a number of initiatives; Cycling Walking and Safer Streets; Quality of Life; 20 mph Speed Limits at Schools. This funding has enabled the Council to implement speed reduction measures near schools and at locations where there is a history of speed related accidents.

3 Traffic calming has been carried out at the following schools :-

Shortlees Primary School
Onthank Primary School
Loudoun Academy
Netherthird Primary School
Greenwood Primary School

Hillhead Primary School
Littlemill Primary School

In addition Committee approval has been given for traffic calming, to be completed this financial year, at the following schools :-

Cycling Walking and Safer Streets (approved 26 August 2003)

Cumnock Academy,
St Patrick's Primary School

Quality of Life (approved 26 August 2003)

Gargieston Primary School (nearing completion)
Crosshouse Primary School (completed)
Patna Primary School

20 mph Speed Limits at Schools (approved 21 October 2003)

Bellfield Primary School
Darvel Primary School

3. 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT PROGRAMME

- 3.1** It is proposed to roll out a programme of mandatory 20 mph limits at all schools throughout the Council area in consultation with Strathclyde Police, Schools, and the local community. Priority will be given to schools which are adjacent to roads which have previously been traffic calmed and also those adjacent to the busier main routes. Particular consideration will be given to the suitability of setting part-time mandatory 20 mph speed limits outside schools, operating at times when children are going to and from school
- 3.2** The detailed programme will be the subject of a future report, when site assessments of accidents, speeds and site conditions have been carried out.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Before a 20 mph speed limit can be introduced it is necessary to promote a legally enforceable Order, in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and the Local Authorities Traffic Order (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999. The Minister has invited the submission of blanket Orders for the introduction of 20mph zones outside schools in each Council area.
- 4.2** The Statutory process for promoting a Speed Limit 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 to the Order and a public inquiry is required.
- 4.3** A Road Humps Statutory Notice will be required where road humps are included in proposals.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (a) Notes the current guidance on 20mph limits outside schools ; and
- (b) Notes that a further report will be submitted to a future Committee setting a proposed programme for the introduction of mandatory 20mph zones outside schools.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

KO/NB
27 November 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

For further information contact Keith Orton on 01563 555714.

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