



From mountain to sea

Speed limits

Policy

November 2020



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1 Introduction

Both the general speed limit for restricted roads and the national speed limit are set by the Scottish Ministers and these apply by default across the country in the absence of signing to the contrary. As these default limits may not be appropriate for all sections of route, local traffic authorities are permitted to set local speed limits suited to local conditions and circumstances.

It is a widely accepted principle that set speed limits should reflect road users' perception of the character of the road however road users can have quite different opinions on what the appropriate speed limit for a stretch of road should be depending on their mode of transport at the time.

National statistics indicate that children and other pedestrians in more deprived areas are far more likely to be injured or killed by vehicles than those from affluent areas, however more affluent residents are generally more likely to request and argue for traffic management interventions in their areas.

This policy aims to promote a reasonable balance between the competing demands of drivers and pedestrians, and residents and businesses. Compliance with this policy should ensure a level of consistency across the areas of Aberdeenshire with speed limits being set fairly and systematically following a quantitatively based approach.

2 Policy Statement

Aberdeenshire Council, while acknowledging the need to avoid unnecessary delays and restrictions to motorists, recognises the road safety and environmental benefits of lower traffic speeds in our towns and villages.

We will:

- **Provide clear guidance on the assessment and implementation of speed limits in a “Speed Limits Manual”;**
 - **Apply the guidance within the Speed Limits Manual consistently across Aberdeenshire;**
 - **In urban areas, move towards 20 mph speed restrictions being the norm while maintaining a network of strategic routes with 30 mph speed restrictions;**
 - **Rationalise our Speed Limit Orders into a new set of 6 orders (1 per Area) and regularly update these through the consolidation process;**
 - **Make all our Speed Limit Orders publicly available by publishing them on our website; and**
 - **Promote residential road layouts in our standards for Road Construction Consent which deliver more pedestrian and cycle friendly neighbourhoods through lower design speeds.**
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3 Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All roads and prospective roads for which Aberdeenshire Council is the local traffic authority.

4 Implementation and compliance

Aberdeenshire Council's "Speed Limits Manual" contains detailed direction on the assessment and provision of speed limits within Aberdeenshire.

The Roads Policy and Asset Manager will be responsible for updating this manual to reflect changes in legislation and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed.

Local Roads and Landscape Managers shall be responsible for compliance within their areas, ensuring that guidance in the manual is complied with.

The Roads Development Manager shall ensure that roads for adoption comply with the guidance in the manual.
