



From mountain to sea

Variable & vehicle-activated signs

Policy

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Policy Sponsor	P McKay, Head of Service, Roads & Infrastructure
Authorised by	Infrastructure Services Committee
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1 Introduction

Variable message signs are widely used outside schools to sign part-time 20 mph speed limits in line with Scottish Government Policy. In addition, there is now a widespread use of vehicle-actuated signs to warn road users of potential hazards or remind them of speed limits. Over the years, various different types of equipment and different applications have been tried out. This has led to a lack of consistency across Aberdeenshire and to reliability issues and maintenance problems with some of the equipment used.

This policy aims to achieve consistency in the provision and use of variable and vehicle-activated signs across the areas of Aberdeenshire. It furthermore seeks to achieve best value in the use of variable and vehicle-activated signs by focusing on sites where they will be most effective and by standardising on simpler units where appropriate.

2 Policy statement

Aberdeenshire Council recognises the contribution variable and vehicle-activated signs can make to road safety and will seek to use them efficiently whilst avoiding overuse and unnecessary sign clutter.

We will:

- **Only install or replace variable and vehicle-activated signs which comply with the criteria specified in Aberdeenshire Council's "Variable & Vehicle-Activated Signs Manual"**
- **Introduce a programme for the rotation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) around multiple sites in collaboration with Police Scotland and local Community Safety Partnerships**
- **Minimise costs by using signs which can be manufactured and serviced in-house, where possible**

3 Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All works on Aberdeenshire's existing road network
- New roads constructed by or on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council
- New roads constructed by others for adoption by Aberdeenshire Council.

4 Implementation & compliance

Aberdeenshire Council's "Variable & Vehicle-Activated Signs Manual" contains detailed guidance on the appropriate use of variable and vehicle activated signs within Aberdeenshire.

The Roads Policy and Asset Manager will be responsible for updating the manual to reflect changes in legislation, advances in technology and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed. Applications for departures from the standards set out in the manual shall be determined by the Roads Policy and Asset Manager after advice from the Roads Standards Group.

Local Roads and Landscape Managers shall be responsible for compliance within their areas, ensuring that guidance in the manual is complied with. Similarly, the Roads Development Manager shall ensure that roads for adoption also comply with the guidance in the manual.