

Speed Limits Policy

Roads and Infrastructure

Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Approval

	Name	Date
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. 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 a route, local traffic authorities are permitted to set local speed limits suited to local conditions and circumstances.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. This policy aims to promote a reasonable balance between the competing demands of motorised vehicles and active travel user, along with residents and businesses. Compliance with this policy should ensure a level of consistency across the whole of Highland, with speed limits being set fairly and systematically following a quantitatively based approach.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1. This policy shall apply to:
 - All adopted and prospectively adoptable roads for which The Highland Council is the local roads authority.
 - Roads not on the adopted list but are managed/ maintained by The Highland Council under other Services such as Property, Housing, Planning and Education.

3.0 Policy

- 3.1. The Highland Council, while acknowledging the need to avoid unnecessary delays and restrictions to motorists, recognises the road safety, community and environmental benefits of lower traffic speeds in both our urban and rural areas.

3.2. We will:

- Provide clear guidance on the assessment and implementation of speed limits in the Highland Council's "Speed Limits Manual";
- Apply the guidance within the Speed Limits Manual consistently across Highland;
- Commit to the Scottish Government National Strategy for 20mph speed limits and ensure all appropriate roads in built-up areas have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025. We will continue to maintain a network of routes with an appropriate 30 mph or 40mph speed restriction;
- Rationalise the number of Speed Limit Orders the Authority has and regularly update these through the consolidation process;
- Make all our new 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.

4.0 Implementation and Compliance

- 4.1. The Highland Council's "Speed Limits Manual" contains detailed direction on the assessment and provision of speed limits within the area.
- 4.2. The Roads Service will be responsible for updating this manual to reflect changes in legislation and any other improvements or amendments considered to be needed.
- 4.3. Road Operations Managers shall be responsible for compliance within their Areas, ensuring that guidance in the manual is complied with. Other teams such as Road Safety and the Traffic Management and Control Team will also be required to comply with the policy and manual.
- 4.4. The Road Construction Consent process will be used to ensure that roads for adoption comply with the guidance in the manual.