

Variable and Vehicle Activated Signs Policy



Roads and Infrastructure
Infrastructure, Environment and Economy

Approval

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. 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 activated signs to warn road users of potential hazards or remind them of speed limits.
- 1.2. This policy aims to achieve consistency in the provision and use of variable and vehicle activated signs across the Highland area. It 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.

2.0 Scope

- 2.1. This policy shall apply to:
 - All adopted and prospectively adoptable roads for which The Highland Council is the local roads authority.

3.0 Policy

- 3.1. The Highland 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.
- 3.2. We will:
 - Only install or replace variable and vehicle-activated signs which comply with the criteria specified in The Highland Council's Variable and Vehicle Activated Signs Manual.
 - Only install or replace variable and vehicle-activated signs when sufficient funding is available.
 - Require that a maintenance fee is paid upfront for any signs that are funded through another body such as a Community Council or Developer, as set out in the Roads Service Schedule of Charges.
 - Require that signs funded by another body such as a Community Council or Developer have permission to be erected from the local Road Operations Manager, the Lighting and Communications Manager and the Road Safety Manager.
 - Require that any signs to be installed on street lighting apparatus are authorised by the Lighting and Communications Manager.
- 3.3. Applications for departures from the guidance set out in the Manual shall be authorised by the Head of Roads and Infrastructure.

4.0 Guidance

- 4.1. The Highland Council's "Variable and Vehicle Activated Signs Manual" contains detailed guidance on the appropriate use of variable and vehicle activated signs within Highland and is available on the Council website.