

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE Enterprise Planning and Infrastructure
DATE 31st January 2012
DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT Notice of Motion – Councillor Farquharson
 Traffic Speed controls

REPORT NUMBER: EPI /12/ 018

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report responds to the Notice of Motion by Councillor Farquharson which requested that a working group be established “to explore the possibility of changing the whole structure of traffic speed controls within the city of Aberdeen “ .

The report outlines the issues related to the review of speed limits city wide, the ongoing work being carried out by officers and provides guidance on the resource and timescales that is needed to carryout this major undertaking.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the committee instruct officers to undertake a review of speed limits in residential areas in conjunction with the review of A&B class roads and to note that the completion of this task is expected in the autumn of 2012.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A staffing resource would have to be identified and a budget for the necessary study identified. The cost of the study would be in the order of £25000 and take into account survey and data gathering required for a study of this nature.

Further costs would be identified in the study for the implementation of any works and is potentially significant.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The allocation of staff from existing duties will impact on the priorities of the traffic management team with current works reprioritised and delayed

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 Reference is made to the minute of the committee of the 15th November 2011 wherein officers were instructed to report on the terms of the Notice of Motion presented by Councillor Farquharson. The committee also concluded that a Working Group should not be established "to explore the possibility of changing the whole structure of traffic speed controls within the city of Aberdeen".
- 5.2 The speed limit framework and the setting of national speed limits is the responsibility of the government and falls into three categories.
30mph - On roads with street lighting
60mph - National speed limit of signal carriageway
70 mph- National speed limit of dual carriageways and motorways
- 5.3 Each Local Roads Authority has powers and may apply or change speed limits on the local road network where there is a considered need and in doing so should follow the guidance and instruction given in the Department for Transport circular 01/2006 Setting of Local Speed limits. The key points noted in the national guidance for the setting of speed limits state that:
*"Speed limits should be evidence led, self explaining and seek to reinforce people's assessment of what is a safe speed to travel. They should encourage self compliance and not be seen as being a target speed at which to drive in all circumstances.
Traffic Authorities set local speed limits in situations where local needs and considerations deem it desirable for drivers to adopt a speed limit which is different from the national speed limit."*
- 5.4 In line with the guidance provided within the above circular a review of the speed limits on all A and B classified routes has commenced and had been aimed at being completed by the end of 2011. A gap in staffing resources and key personnel over the last 18 months has not allowed the suggested timescale to be met. Officers are currently proceeding with the review which should be complete by the end of Spring 2012.
- 5.5 The powers given to the local Roads Authority to set speed limits on the local road network has been used as an effective traffic management and road safety tool. The use of the delegated powers is most apparent through the introduction of 20mph schemes within residential areas and at primary schools but has also been used to effect on the principal network. The guidelines for the introduction of 20mph schemes, both advisory and regulatory, is defined in the policy document adopted by this council in 2002 and follows nationally suggested criteria.
- 5.6 Recent guidance for the design of new residential areas through the "Designing Streets" planning policy document encourages the control of vehicular speed through effective layout design and environmental

perceptions, without the need for the introduction of a regulatory speed limit. This approach is now widely used in the planning of new residential development and its success will be monitored as schemes are introduced.

- 5.7 Where changes to the national frame work have been introduced the approach taken locally has been to only adopt speed limits where evidence has clearly indicated it would be in the interests of road safety and the local community
- 5.8 The review of speed limits on a city wide basis is a complex undertaking, and involves a significant staff resource akin to a major project. It is necessary to gather speed, traffic and accident data for review. Given the need for active enforcement and support close consultation and liaison with Grampian police on all aspects of the review will be a fundamental element of the review process.
- 5.9 The principles of a speed limit review require to be founded on the national and local guidance documents and also take into consideration the findings from other authorities, such as Portsmouth, who have introduced a blanket city wide 20mph for residential areas.
- 5.10 The alteration to speed limits city wide would have substantial budgetary implications and this element must be examined in detail to allow members to make an informed decision on the benefits of any changes.
- 5.11 Should the committee be minded to instruct a city wide speed limit review it is suggested that this work be included in the ongoing review of A and B class roads. This additional piece of work is a major undertaking and would take at least 6 months to complete provided the necessary staff resource can be allocated for this work. The earliest practical report date would be in the autumn.

6. IMPACT

- 6.1 The provision of Roads Safety through the implementation of local speed limits meets the aspirations of the Community Plan and the Councils Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking statement.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Department for Transport circular 01/2006 Setting of Local Speed limits.

ACC Adopted Policy for 20mph Speed limits - Committee report 16th April 2002

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Consultee Comments

Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure Committee

Convener: Councillor Kate Dean – Email sent 21/12/2011

Vice Convener: Councillor John Corall – Email sent 21/12/2011

Local Members

Councillor George Adam	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Yvonne Allan	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Marie Boulton	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Bill Cormie (Depute Provost)	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Barney Crocket	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Martin Greig	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Muriel Jaffrey	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Alan Milne	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor George Penny	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Richard Robertson	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor John West	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor John Stewart	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Kevin Stewart	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Jillian Wisely	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Ian Yuill	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Irene Cormack	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Alan Donnelly	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor James Kiddie	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Neil Cooney	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Mark McDonald	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Jennifer Laing	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Len Ironside	email sent 21/12/2011
Lord Provost Peter Stephen	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Wendy Stuart	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Gordon Townson	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Neil Fletcher	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Kirsty West	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Aileen Malone	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Neil MacGregor	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Jackie Dunbar	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Gordon Graham	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Andrew May	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor James Hunter	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Norman Collie	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Jim Noble	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Gordon Leslie	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor John Reynolds	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Jim Farquharson	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Jennifer Stewart	email sent 21/12/2011
Councillor Willie Young	email sent 21/12/2011

Barry Jenkins, Head of Finance, Resources - *has been consulted*

Council Officers

Barry Jenkins, Head of Finance, Resources - *has been consulted*

Jane MacEachran, City Solicitor, Continuous Improvement - *has been consulted and has no comments*

Ciaran Monaghan, Head of Service, Office of Chief Executive - *has been consulted*

Gordon McIntosh, Director of Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure - *has been consulted*

Hugh Murdoch, Head of Service, Shelter and Environment – *has been consulted*

Mike Cheyne, Roads Manager - *has been consulted*

Dave Young, Account Manager, Service, Design and Development - *has been consulted*

Kathryn McFarlane, Service Co-ordinator

Allison Swanson, Committee Services
