

Midlothian Council Speed Policy Review

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- Notes the attached Midlothian Speed Policy Consultation Summary Report; and
- Requests the Chief Officer – Place to report further to Council in early 2023 with an Action Plan to implement the appropriate schemes.

2 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the public consultation on speed limits to improve road safety and request the production of an action plan to approve implementation of appropriate speed limits across Midlothian, its towns and settlements.

Date: 06 December 2022
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3 Background

- 3.1 The Midlothian road network needs to support a local transport system that is safe for all road users and improves the quality of life in our communities with the potential to encourage social and economic activity.
- 3.2 Effective vehicle speed management involves many components designed to encourage, help and require drivers to adopt appropriate and safe speeds. Speed limits are a key source of information and play a fundamental role in indicating the nature of, and risks posed by, a road to both motorised and non-motorised road users.
- 3.3 Scotland's National Transport Strategy (NTS2) sets out a vision of the country's transport system for the next 20 years to address the key challenges we face. There are a number of overarching strategies and delivery plans being produced to support this at a national level, including the Road Safety Framework (2021), together with Regional and Local Transport Strategies.
- 3.4 To support the aims of these documents, Midlothian Council has undertaken a road safety and hierarchy review of its network which has led to the production of an approved Speed Policy. This sets out the Council's objectives, guidance which has been used to inform the policies, and how these will be implemented.
- 3.5 Public consultation on existing speed limits, implementation of 20mph speed restrictions within towns, villages and smaller settlements, and speed limits on higher speeds roads and how these impact road safety and access to active travel, has been undertaken.
- 3.6 The public consultation was open from 1st November to 29th November to permit a full four week period. This included direct engagement sessions with Council Officers, Community Councils, key stakeholders and Councillors.
- 3.7 The consultation summary report is appended.
- 3.8 In order to target and prioritise interventions, assessed on a consistent basis and established baseline, and to allocate budget and funding for necessary infrastructure improvements, an action plan will be devised and presented to Council for approval prior to implementation.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

The budget for the public consultation is expected to be met from the Road Safety Improvement Fund. Action Plan outcomes will require capital funding for infrastructure interventions. This will be met through relevant external funding or subject to capital programming. Future Council reports will be required.

4.2 Digital

Information on the consultation and approved actions will be displayed on the Council's website.

4.3 Risk

Not implementing a local Speed Policy and consultation outcomes may expose the Council to financial and reputational risk. Approving the recommendations can help to reduce road safety concerns.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

The subject of this report does not have a significant impact on equality. An Equality Impact Assessment will be necessary on the implementation of the action plan and will be factored into future reports.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

Appendices

Midlothian Council Speed Policy Consultation Summary Report

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The route map outlines the phases of service recovery and transformation which will underpin the Single Midlothian Plan.

A.2 Key Drivers for Change

Key drivers addressed in this report:

- ☐ Holistic Working
- ☐ Hub and Spoke
- ☒ Modern
- ☒ Sustainable
- ☒ Transformational
- ☒ Preventative
- ☒ Asset-based
- ☒ Continuous Improvement
- ☐ One size fits one
- ☐ None of the above

A.3 Key Delivery Streams

Key delivery streams addressed in this report:

- ☒ One Council Working with you, for you
- ☒ Preventative and Sustainable
- ☐ Efficient and Modern
- ☒ Innovative and Ambitious
- ☐ None of the above

A.4 Delivering Best Value

The report aims to deliver best value.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Extensive public consultation is imperative and has been undertaken as per the Consultation Summary Report.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The report aims to measure progress through outcomes.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

The report is based on the creation of a wellbeing economy which prioritises prevention, fairness for people, the economy and the environment.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

The improvement and enhancement of our environment.