

Notice of Meeting and Agenda



Midlothian Council

Venue: Council Chambers,
Midlothian House, Dalkeith, EH22 1DN

Date: Tuesday, 09 May 2023

Time: 11:00

Executive Director : Place

Contact:

Clerk Name: Democratic Services

Clerk Telephone:

Clerk Email: democratic.services@midlothian.gov.uk

Further Information:

This is a meeting which is open to members of the public.

Privacy notice: Please note that this meeting may be recorded. The recording may be publicly available following the meeting. If you would like to know how Midlothian Council collects, uses and shares your personal information, please visit our website: www.Midlothian.gov.uk

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

2 Order of Business

Including notice of new business submitted as urgent for consideration at the end of the meeting.

3 Declaration of Interest

Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest.

4 Deputations

None

5 Minutes

5.1	Minute of Midlothian Council 21 March 2023, Submitted for Approval	5 - 20
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5.3	Action Log	25 - 28

6 Questions to the Council Leader

None

7 Motions

None

8 Public Reports

8.1	Midlothian Integration Joint Board – Appointment of Vice-Chair, Report by Chief Officer, Midlothian Integration Joint Board	29 - 36
8.2	Hybrid meeting protocol – interim arrangements, Report by Executive Director Place	37 - 44
8.3	Proposed Revised Schedule of Meeting Dates for January to June 2024, Report by Executive Director Place	45 - 52
8.4	Cost of living crisis - Cost of the school day, Report by Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships	53 - 68

8.5	Community Council Grants 2023-2024, Report by Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships	69 - 82
8.6	Midlothian Council Speed Policy Review Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place	83 - 164
8.7	Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan – Housing First Report Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place	165 - 172

(A) TO CONSIDER RESOLVING TO DEAL WITH THE UNDERNOTED BUSINESS IN PRIVATE IN TERMS OF PARAGRAPHS 6, 9 AND 11 OF PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973 - THE RELEVANT REPORTS ARE THEREFORE NOT FOR PUBLICATION; AND

(B) TO NOTE THAT NOTWITHSTANDING ANY SUCH RESOLUTION, INFORMATION MAY STILL REQUIRE TO BE RELEASED UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002 OR THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REGULATIONS 2004.

9 Private Reports

9.1 Health & Safety works at Midlothian House, Report by Executive Director Place

- 6. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority).
- 8. The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.
- 9. Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

9.2 Midlothian Bereavement Campus Including Forensic Pathology Centre, Report by Executive Director Place

- 6. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority).
- 8. The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.
- 9. Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

10 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 27 June 2023 11am

Minute of Meeting



Midlothian Council

Date	Time	Venue
21 March 2023	11.00 am	Council Chambers, Midlothian House

Present:

Provost McCall (Chair)	Depute Provost Bowen
Councillor Parry – Council Leader	Councillor Cassidy – Depute Council Leader
Councillor Alexander	Councillor Curran
Councillor Drummond	Councillor Imrie
Councillor McEwan	Councillor McKenzie
Councillor McManus	Councillor Milligan
Councillor Pottinger	Councillor Russell
Councillor Scott	Councillor Smail
Councillor Virgo	Councillor Winchester

In attendance:

Dr Grace Vickers, Chief Executive	Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place
Morag Barrow, Joint Director Health and Social Care	Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships
Alan Turpie, Monitoring Officer	David Gladwin, Acting Chief Financial Officer (Section 95 Officer)
Joan Tranent, Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities	Fiona Clandillon, Head of Development
Derek Oliver, Chief Officer Place	Saty Kaur, Acting Chief Officer Corporate Solutions

Ross Neill, Democratic Services Team Leader (Minutes)
Hannah Forbes, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

Religious Representatives:

1. Welcome and Apology for Absence

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting, advising that this meeting was a public meeting and would be webcast live. Democratic Services confirmed no apologies had been received.

2. Order of Business

Order of business as per the agenda.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest.

4. Deputations

None.

5. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
5.1	Minute of Council 21 February 2023 for approval	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
Moved by Councillor Parry Seconded by Councillor McKenzie		
Decision		
The Minute was unanimously approved and the Provost was authorised to sign as a true record of the meeting.		
Action		
None		

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:						
5.2	Minute Volume Index Midlothian Council 21 February 2023	Executive Director Place						
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion								
<table><tr><th>Meeting</th><th>Date of Meeting</th></tr><tr><td>Audit Committee</td><td>07 February 2023</td></tr><tr><td>Cabinet</td><td>29 November 2022</td></tr></table>			Meeting	Date of Meeting	Audit Committee	07 February 2023	Cabinet	29 November 2022
Meeting	Date of Meeting							
Audit Committee	07 February 2023							
Cabinet	29 November 2022							

Planning	10 January 2023
Local Review Body	23 January 2023
Midlothian Integration Joint Board	13 October 2022
Midlothian Integration Joint Board	15 December 2022
<p>Responding to matters arising from members in relation to Audit Committee, Mr Gladwin confirmed Midlothian Council was not exposed to any Swiss Banks.</p> <p>Moved Councillor Parry Seconded Councillor McKenzie</p>	
Decision	
N/a	
Action	
N/a	

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
5.3	Action Log	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
Action log was agreed by all Councillors		
Decision		
All to note.		
Action		
N/a		

6. Questions to the Leader of the Council

None received

7. Notices of Motion

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
7.1	Gorebridge and District Environmental Group [GADEG]	Councillor Scott and Councillor Bowen
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The Motion was in the following terms:-</p> <p>Midlothian Council would like to thank Gorebridge and District Environmental Group [GADEG] for all their hard work since 2004 in litter picking in the Gorebridge area. Special thanks is given to Lorna and Bill Crook and to all the members of the</p>		

group who have kept litter picking in all weathers since 2014 when Mr Bill Innes the founder of the group retired.

The group have also been responsible for maintaining the Circular Walk around Gorebridge and although it is therefore with sadness Midlothian Council notes the group has recently dissolved, Midlothian Council notes with gratitude all they have done.

Councillors Scott and Bowen spoke to the terms of the Motion which was thereafter unanimously approved.

Members agreed unanimously to support the motion as outlined.

Decision

None.

Action

None.

8. Reports

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.1	Appointment of Deputy Provost of Midlothian	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report seeks the election of a replacement Deputy Provost. It is understood that the Administration propose to nominate Councillor Bowen to the role. Should Councillor Bowen be appointed the Administration there would then be a number of consequent amendments, as detailed in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report, to ensure there is no gap in the governance of the Council.</p> <p>Mr Anderson announced the resignation of Councillor McManus as Deputy Provost.</p> <p>Councillor Parry nominated Councillor Bowen. Councillor Cassidy seconded the nomination.</p> <p>No further nominations.</p> <p>Councillor Bowen was appointed as Deputy Provost.</p> <p>Councillor McManus thanked everyone for their support.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council agreed to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note the resignation of Councillor McManus from the role of Deputy Provost;• appoint a replacement Deputy Provost of Midlothian; and• dependent on the identity of the new Deputy Provost, consider the consequent appointments proposed by the Administration.		

Councillor Bowen unanimously appointed as Depute Provost

Action

Amend changes to Councillor responsibilities and membership of outside bodies – Democratic Services

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.2	Midlothian Licensing Board – Appointment of Member	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report seeks the election of a replacement member of Midlothian Licensing Board to replace Councillor McManus who has had to resign following his appointment to the Newbattle Abbey College Trust.</p> <p>Mr Anderson spoke to the report and invited members to nominate a replacement for the Licensing Board.</p> <p>Councillor Parry nominated Councillor Cassidy. Councillor McKenzie seconded the nomination.</p> <p>No further nominations.</p> <p>Council Cassidy was appointed to the Licensing Board.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council agreed to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• note that Councillor McManus has had to resign from the Licensing Board; and• elect a replacement member to the Licensing Board. <p>Councillor Cassidy appointed to the Licensing Board.</p>		
Action		
Update Licensing Board membership – Democratic Services.		

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.3	Proposed Revised Schedule of Meeting Dates for August – December 2023	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>Good governance requires that the Council forward plan the dates of its governance meetings. The schedule of dates has been developed taking into consideration school holidays and this schedule is now presented to Council for approval.</p>		

Councillor Parry moved the report.
Councillor Curran seconded.

Decision

The Council agreed to approve the schedule of meeting dates from August to December 2023.

Action

None.

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.4	Fees and Charges 2023	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report details the fees and charges that the Council will implement from 1 April 2023.</p> <p>Ms Kaur spoke to the report noting that normally this report would be issued with the Medium Term Financial Strategy, however it was delayed to this month to take account of the decisions made at February Council.</p> <p>Members are asked to approve the recommendations as noted in the report, including the creation of a one year transition fund for gala days, increased parking charges and future income generation charges. Further reports will be presented to the Council in the future.</p> <p>Councillor Milligan declared a declaration of transparency as he holds a public entertainment licence.</p> <p>Councillor Parry moved the report and all of its recommendations. Councillor Cassidy seconded.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council agreed to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve the fees and charges register with all changes to come into effect from 1 April 2023 (Appendix B), noting that the implementation date will be delayed for those at 3.11, 3.13, 3.14, 3.15, 3.17 and 3.18 for the reasons explained;• Agree to the publication of the approved fees and charges register on the Council's website;• Note the fees and charges that were agreed at Council on 21 February 2023 as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy which are listed at 3.3;• Note the supplementary information on implementation of the fees and charges agreed at Council on 21 February 2023 (as outlined in 3.4 – 3.12);		

- Agree to establish a one year Transition Fund to support the increased licence costs for community events (as detailed in 3.5-3.7), and agree that this will be administered by the Executive Director Place;
- Agree to adopt the revised guidance from Scottish Ministers to increase the penalty charge notices to the prices detailed at 3.13 and 3.14;
- Agree to receive an events charging policy in Q2 2023/24 for consideration and approval as detailed at 3.17; and
- Agree to receive a sponsorship and advertising policy for consideration and approval in Q2 2023/24 as detailed at 3.18.

Action

Events charging policy to be presented to Council in Q2 2023/24 – Chief Officer Place
Sponsorship and advertising policy to be presented to Council in Q2 2023/24 – Chief Officer Place

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.5	Covert Surveillance	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report is the requirement of the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO) to advise the Council of covert surveillance actions in terms of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (Scotland) Act 2000 ("RIPSA") by the Council during 2021 and 2022.</p> <p>Mr Anderson spoke to the report and the recommendations within, noting a significant reduction RIPSA authorisations.</p> <p>Councillor McKenzie moved the report. Councillor Virgo seconded.</p>		
Decision		
The Council noted the terms of the report.		
Action		
None.		

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.6	Mavisbank House	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report is to update the Council on progress with the proposed restoration of Mavisbank House by The Landmark Trust.</p> <p>Mr Anderson spoke to the report and asked the Council to note the paper.</p>		

A discussion took place amongst members concerning the relationship of Mavisbank Trust and Landmark Trust. In response Mr Anderson and Ms Hay confirmed that both Trusts were different and the concordant continues and was reaffirmed in 2019.

Responding to further questions from members Mr Anderson confirmed that there would be no financial commitment and it was very unlikely that the Council would end up with ownership. Mr Turpie explained the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and that the Landmark Trust are happy with the back to back agreements.

Councillor Cassidy moved the paper.

Councillor Alexander seconded adding that it would be a great asset to Midlothian.

Decision

The Council noted:-

- The Landmark Trust are pursuing the restoration of Mavisbank House as a two stage process, beginning with the purchase of the House and carrying out of works to secure the building as a “consolidated ruin”;
- This Landmark Trust project is considered viable in terms of the May 2012 Mavisbank Concordat, therefore the Council will use its compulsory purchase powers as set out in the Concordat if The Landmark Trust can secure the necessary funding;
- Costs incurred by the Council in carrying out the compulsory purchase process will be covered by The Landmark Trust; and
- The Council will continue to supply no financial support to The Landmark Trust restoration project at Mavisbank House.

Action

None.

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.7	Tender Returns – Temporary Units (various)	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>To obtain governance for the provision of Modular Units for four primary schools and one high school in Midlothian, where capacity is projected to be exceeded by August 2023. Four of these will be procured through a direct acquisition following a competitive tender exercise, with the fifth to be rented over a period of 16 months.</p> <p>Ms Clandillon spoke to the paper that proposed the expansion the capacity of the schools noted (Kings Park, Woodburn, Rosewell and Roslin primary). There is no net cost to the General Services Capital Plan. Council was asked to delegate authority to the Executive Director Place to purchase the units.</p> <p>Councillors debated the merits of purchasing the units as opposed to leasing them, and they also queried developer contributions. Ms Clandillon responded to</p>		

questions confirming a 16 month short term lease was more economical than purchase for the fifth unit and also confirmed that some of the requirements are not covered by developer contributions.

Further discussion between members concerning whether a purchase as opposed to a lease would cause a delay in delivery. Ms Clandillon and Mr Anderson advised that the change from lease to purchase may cause a delay due to different tendering processes; however officers would explore the option to convert the leasing arrangement to a purchasing arrangement and action if feasible.

Councillor Parry moved the report.
Councillor Cassidy seconded.

Decision

The Council agreed to:-

- Note the requirement for Modular Units at King's Park Primary School, Roslin Primary School, Rosewell Primary School and Woodburn Primary School, to address projected capacity being exceeded in August 2023/24.
- Note the requirement for a Modular Unit at Lasswade High School, to address the requirement for suitable space for pupils with Additional Support Needs.
- Approve granting of delegated authority to Executive Director Place for acquisition of units up to value of £1.772 million, to finalise tender assessment to deliver best value to the Council for the acquisition of the units at King's Park Primary School, Roslin Primary School, Rosewell Primary School and Lasswade High School.
- Approve a capital expenditure budget of £1.998 million in the General Services Capital Plan for the acquisition and installation of the Modular Units at King's Park, Roslin and Rosewell Primary Schools, to allow the timely procurement and delivery of these units, with the budget value to be reduced accordingly following the completion of the tender assessment process;
- Note that the capital costs of £1.998 million for the acquisition of the Modular Units at King's Park, Roslin and Rosewell Primary Schools will be funded in full by the application of developer contributions for primary school provision in Rosewell, Dalkeith and Roslin, and thereby have no additional net cost implications for the General Services Capital Plan;
- Approve the allocation of a fully approved capital expenditure budget of £0.506 million for the Modular Unit at Lasswade High School, which will partially replace the current 'in principle' capital expenditure budgetary allocation for the provision of accommodation for ASN pupils at Lasswade High School of £1.333m in the General Services Capital Plan.
- Approve the proposed rental of the Modular Unit at Woodburn for the period August 2023 to December 2024, noting that the forecast rental costs are expected to be able to be funded in full by already received developer contributions for primary school provision in Dalkeith. A report will be brought back to Council to request a supplementary budget estimate for these rental costs in 2023/24 and inclusion in the base budget in 2024/25,

along with confirmation that these costs will be funded in full by developer contributions.

Action

Councillor visit to temporary units - Head of Development.
To review unit purchases - Executive Director Place.
To report back to Council to request a supplementary budget estimate for these rental costs in 2023/24 and inclusion in the base budget in 2024/25, along with confirmation that these costs will be funded in full by developer contributions – Executive Director Place.

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.8	Midlothian Pupil Intake August 2023	Executive Director, Children, Young People and Partnerships
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report provides Council with an update on the enrolment of pupils and intake for the school session 2023/24. The report identifies a number of schools where there is pressure on school capacity and the need to apply intake limits to safeguard places for catchment children and to manage placing requests.</p> <p>Ms Robertson spoke to the report referring to the modular units in the previous item. She added that since publication of the report there had been an increase to the intake of Dalkeith High School.</p> <p>Members discussed various aspects of the report including the number of deferrals, the reasons behind them and the impact they have in the future. Ms Robertson confirmed that the policy has been adjusted and this takes into account community feedback on school placements, she added that there are on-going discussions with the Scottish Government concerning what age children should start primary school.</p> <p>Councillors queried student figures for Beeslack and Penicuik schools. Dr Urquhart explained the figures in question and how students are split between schools.</p> <p>Councillor Scott moved the paper. Councillor Parry seconded.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council agreed to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The requirement to apply intake limits, as detailed in the report, at a number of schools in order to safeguard places for pupils to be able to attend their catchment school. <p>And to note :-</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The estimated intake figures for primary and secondary schools in Section 3, tables 1 – 3.
Action
None.

Provost adjourned the meeting at 12.07 pm

Meeting resumed at 12.20 pm

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.9	Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry	Chief Social Work Officer and Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report provides the background to, and remit of, the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. It covers the work in relation to the Inquiry that has been carried out to date by Midlothian Council. The Inquiry's proceedings, particularly the most recent phase focusing on local authority foster care. The findings in relation to the abuse of children in care for whom Midlothian Council and its predecessor bodies were responsible and actions being taken by Midlothian Council to respond effectively to the concerns and issues raised in the course of the Inquiry's proceedings.</p> <p>Ms Tranent spoke to the report noting the amount of work involved and the exceptional work by Midlothian to contribute to the Inquiry.</p> <p>Responding to questions Ms Tranent confirmed that Midlothian's local arrangements are to carry out 4 weekly visits to foster carers if on a supervision order, rather than the minimum 6 week visits (this is dependant if the placement is settled), and two unannounced visits are carried out per year to a foster care home from the supervising Social Worker.</p> <p>Councillor Smaill requested assurance that there are no data breaches under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) or any other considerations for the confidentiality of anyone affected by the enquiry. Ms Tranent confirmed Midlothian follows all confidentiality and data protection requirements when submitting information to the inquiry.</p> <p>Councillor Scott moved the report Councillor Virgo seconded</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council agreed to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledge the exceptional work undertaken by the independent social worker and legal team who worked tirelessly to bring together their findings from the reading of historical files and present our submission to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry 		

- Note the actions taken by Midlothian Council in response to the requirements of the Inquiry
- Agree to work arising from the evidence presented to the Inquiry and the concluding statements of Lady Smith, the Inquiry chair, in relation to foster care being taken forward as outlined below
- Receive a further report of any additional action needed to progress the findings of the foster care phase of the Inquiry when Lady Smith's findings are published

Action

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry future update report - Chief Social Work Officer and Chief Officer Children's Services, Partnerships and Communities

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.10	Midlothian Council Football Pitch Needs Assessment	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report is for Council to note the revised football pitch needs across the county and the corresponding actions that are being taken by Council Officers.</p> <p>Mr Oliver introduced the report noting that the original assessment was presented in 2017 and the current report focused on the football assessment was requested in 2022. Mr Oliver confirmed that 76% of registered clubs responded. He also assured members that his team would work with all parties to progress pitch improvements and seek access to funding where possible.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the talented footballers within Midlothian and the need to use the pitches for all sports. All members noted the tireless work and contribution volunteers provide for all sports in Midlothian.</p> <p>Councillor Virgo announced a transparency declaration in relation to the volunteer football coaching he is involved with.</p> <p>Members discussed the possibility of using developer contributions and Sports Scotland funding to fund pitch renewals. Mr Oliver confirmed his team are always seeking funding opportunities, he added that some funding has strict criteria.</p>		
Decision		
The Council notes the Football Pitch Needs Assessment Report and actions that are currently being taken.		
Action		
None.		

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.11	Gladhouse Reservoir - Clearway Order	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Council with feedback from partners on the Clearway Order implemented from April to October 2022, as an operational matter, and advise that a Clearway Order will be implemented from 3rd April to 1st October 2023.</p> <p>Councillor Cassidy declared an interest concerning his son's business. Councillor Virgo also declared an interest concerning his secondary area of employment. Both Councillor Cassidy and Councillor Virgo left the meeting for this item.</p> <p>Mr Oliver spoke to the report. He confirmed Scottish Water had funded a seasonal ranger and had a current planning application for a visitor carpark. He confirmed planning had received the tree survey report. He added that both Police Scotland and the Scottish Ambulance service were supportive of the carpark.</p> <p>Members discussed a number of issues including consultation with landowners but an apparent lack with the public. It was a suggestion the new powers be held in abeyance to allow a review of the site's use in a year's time.</p> <p>Councillor Alexander moved the report Councillor Drummond seconded the report</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the outcomes of the Clearway Order implemented from 11th April 2022 to 2nd October 2022; • Notes that a Clearway Order will be implemented from 3rd April 2023 to 1st October 2023 and will be published in early course. 		
Action		
None.		

Councillors Cassidy and Virgo returned to the Chamber at 1pm.

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.12	Roads Operations	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report provides an update to roads maintenance policy. It seeks approval to embargo roadworks on certain designated traffic sensitive routes at times of expected high traffic volume, including holiday periods, such as Christmas. The report lays out Council's policy to repair road defects, including potholes, using the newly acquired equipment, Pothole Pro, to best effect. This report details the residential streets that have been resurfaced so far as part of a capital investment</p>		

programme, as previously approved at Council, to improve user safety and visual amenity of local areas, which has received positive resident feedback.

Mr Oliver introduced the report and invited questions.

Members welcomed the report and the new pothole repair vehicle. In response to queries pertaining to rural roads, clarification was provided by Mr Oliver on the category of repairs and response period. Members also discussed the impact utility companies have in Midlothian and the disruption temporary traffic lighting/management causes to the population. Mr Oliver confirmed that traffic management systems used by utility companies must comply with health and safety legislation.

Councillor Alexander moved the report.
Councillor Cassidy seconded.

Decision

The Council agrees to:-

- Note the process and scope of designating embargoed road works on traffic sensitive roads;
- Note the recent investment in resources, including apprentices, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Roads Operations team;
- Approve the Pothole Repair Policy, making fullest use of the new Pothole Pro equipment;
- Note the progress to date of the capital funded Residential Streets Resurfacing programme.

Action

N/a

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.13	Midlothian Orbital Route - Case for Change & Preliminary Options Appraisal	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report is to provide Council with an update on the Midlothian Orbital Bus Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance process by way of an executive summary on the Case for Change and Preliminary Options Appraisal stages.</p> <p>Mr Oliver spoke to the paper before inviting questions.</p> <p>Members acknowledged that since Covid restrictions bus companies have struggled to attract customers. Mr Oliver was asked if there would be further consultation to which he replied that there would not. He confirmed the exercise was now complete and the four corridors had been identified.</p>		

Decision
The Council notes the executive summary report detailing the outcomes from the Case for Change and Preliminary Options Appraisal stages of the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) process.
Action
N/a

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.14	Building Maintenance Service	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>This report is to seek Council approval for Policies to assist operational activity, specifically in Protective Services and Building Maintenance Service, and to protect the health and wellbeing of our tenants and the structural integrity of our assets.</p> <p>Mr Oliver introduced the report noting the recommendations.</p> <p>Members felt this report provided a good balance between tenant and Council responsibilities. Councillor Curran suggested that any white goods left by previous tenants, after successful safety tests, could be left for new tenants. Mr Oliver agreed to look into this.</p> <p>Councillor McKenzie moved the paper Councillor Curran seconded.</p>		
Decision		
<p>The Council agrees to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the Repairs & Maintenance Service Standards • Approves the Common Repairs Policy • Approves the Minimum Let Standard • Approves HRA cost recovery pest control treatments within domestic tenancies 		
Action		
Investigate the possibility of transferring white goods from departing tenants to new tenants – Chief Officer Place		

Report No.	Report Title	Report by:
8.15	Beeslack CHS and Penicuik HS, Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP)	Executive Director Place
Outline of Report and Summary of Discussion		
<p>To update to Midlothian Council on the status of the LEIP National Programme and also the local priority projects from the previously approved Learning Estate Strategy.</p> <p>Mr Anderson spoke to the paper noting that there would be an elected member seminar to be scheduled at the earliest opportunity</p> <p>Councillor Parry moved the report. Councillor Scott seconded.</p>		
Decision		
The Council agree to convene an Elected Member Seminar for an update presentation in respect of the Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP) and specifically the funded projects in Midlothian.		
Action		
Arrange a LEIP Seminar – Executive Director Place		

Public section of the meeting concluded at 1.40 pm

9. Private

No business to discuss

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 11am

Midlothian Council Minute Volume



**Presented to the Meeting
of Midlothian Council
on Tuesday, 09 May 2023**

1 Minutes of Meetings submitted for Approval

N/A

2 Minutes of Meetings submitted for Consideration

Approved Minutes for Noting, Information and Consideration of any recommendations contained therein

Minute of BTSG 28 November 2022	5 - 8
Minute of Special BTSG 12 January 2023	9 - 12
Minute of Special BTSG 19 January 2023	13 - 16
Minutes of Special BTSG 9 February 2023	17 - 20
Minute of Special BTSG 21 February 2023	21 - 24
Minute of Special BTSG 14 February 2023	25 - 28
Minute of BTSG 13 March 2023	29 - 32
Minute of General Purposes Committee 7 February 2023	33 - 36
Minute of Local Review Body of 6 March 2023	37 - 42
Minute of Performance Review and Scutiny Committee meeting of 12 December 2022	43 - 48
Minute of Planning meeting of 28 February 2023	49 - 60

3 Minutes of Meetings submitted for Information

Approved Minutes of Outside Organisations to which Council appoints representatives

Minutes of the MIJB held on 09 February 2023	61 - 70
Minutes of the Special MIJB held on 16 March 2023	71 - 76

Seminars

Action Log

Midlothian Council
Tuesday 9 May 2023
Item 5.3



No	Subject	Date	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
1	Minute action - prospective crematorium development.	16/11/2021	Scope potential suitable sites for prospective crematorium development.	Chief Officer Place	February 2023	Report deferred to Council in May 2023. Item on Council Agenda 9 May.
2	Motion - Infrastructure	14/12/2021	Report to Council Strategic Investment Framework	Executive Director Place	May 2023	Strategic Infrastructure Investment Framework 2 nd stage now concluded and full report expected to be presented to Council when available.
3	Minute Action - CCTV	14/12/2021	To provide a report outlining an expansion of sites for CCTV	Chief Officer Place	September 2023	Phase 2 expansion needs further consideration with a report deferred to Council in Q2 2023/24.
4	Arm's Length Company to Manage Industrial Sites in Midlothian	28/06/2022	Explore and outline process for creating an Arm's length company	Chief Officer Place	February 2023	Work progressing on report deferred to Council in June 2023.
5	Briefing - Trauma Informed practice	23/08/2022	Members Briefing on Trauma Practice and Mental Health First Aid	Head of Adult Services	TBC	<p>A date is being arranged with Health in Mind for Mental Health Training.</p> <p>Trauma Informed Practice – Trauma Lead has recently joined Midlothian</p>

No	Subject	Date	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
						Council and will now progress the session with members.
6	Minute from 21 February 2023	21/02/2023	The Cross-Party Business Transformation Steering Group recommend that the remaining measures be brought back to Council in the form of an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy Transformation Programme.	All lead officers	June 2023	
7	Capital Plan Prioritisation	21/02/2023	Refer approved Council report to BTSG on additional affordability scope and projects.	Executive Director Place	June 2023	To be considered by BTSG prior to return to Council.
8	Building Maintenance Service - Dampness & Condensation Policy Report	21/02/2023	Tenant handbook would be updated to reflect the changes within the new policy	Executive Director Place	April 2023	Completed Tenant handbook insert & Repairs website update completed.
9	Appointment of Depute Provost of Midlothian	21/03/2023	Amend changes to Councillor responsibilities and membership of outside bodies	Democratic Services		Completed

No	Subject	Date	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
10	Midlothian Licensing Board – Appointment of Member	21/03/2023	Update Licensing Board membership	Democratic Services		Completed
11	Tender Returns – Temporary Units (various)	21/03/2023	a) Councillor visit to temporary units b) To review unit purchases c) Repot back to Council to request a supplementary budget estimate for 2023/24 rental costs and inclusion in the 2024/25 base budget, alongside confirmation these will be fully funded from developer contributions	a) Head of Development b) Executive Director Place c) Executive Director Place	TBC	Site visit being scheduled and cost of lease now received for reporting.
12	Building Maintenance Service	21/03/2023	Investigate the possibility of transferring white goods from departing tenants to new tenants	Chief Officer Place	TBC	Completed – fit for use appliances retained for incoming tenant where expressed preference. Where not retained in house re-used in furniture recycling project.
13	Beeslack CHS and Penicuik HS, Learning Estate Investment Programme (LEIP)	21/03/2023	Arrange a LEIP Seminar	Executive Director Place	TBC	Completed – scheduled for 25.04.23

No	Subject	Date	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Comments
14	Fees and Charges 2023	21/03/2023	a) Events Charging Policy to be presented to Council for consideration and approval b) Sponsorship and Advertising Policy to be presented to Council for consideration and approval	Chief Officer Place	Q2 2023/24	

Midlothian Integration Joint Board – Appointment of Vice-Chair**Report by Morag Barrow, Chief Officer, Midlothian Integration Joint Board****Report for Decision****1 Recommendation**

The Council is invited to:-

- (a) appoint a nominee to act as Vice-Chair until the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the Integration Joint Board in August 2023;
- (b) Determine whether the Vice Chair would accede to the post of Chairperson of the Integrated Joint Board in August 2023; and
- (b) note the schedule of Board meeting dates for 2023 at Appendix 2.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This report invites Council to nominate an elected member to act as Vice-Chair of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board.

Date: 17 April 2023

Report Contacts: Saty Kaur, Chief Officer (Corporate Solutions) / Alan Turpie, Legal and Governance Manager

Email: Saty.Kaur@midlothian.gov.uk / Alan.Turpie@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background

- 3.1** Under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, and associated Regulations, Local Authorities and Health Boards were required to jointly submit Integration Schemes for Ministerial approval by 1 April 2015. Following preparation of, and consultation on, a proposed Midlothian Integration Scheme, on 24 March 2015, Midlothian Council authorised the submission of the Integration Scheme to the Scottish Government for approval. The NHS Lothian Board had agreed similarly at its meeting on 4 March 2015.
- 3.2** The Midlothian Integration Scheme was subsequently submitted to and approved by Scottish Ministers and The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Board Establishment) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2015 laid before the Scottish Parliament on 29th May 2015, coming into force on 27th June 2015.
- 3.3** The inaugural meeting of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board was then held on 20th August 2015.
- 3.4** The “Local Governance Arrangements” for the Midlothian Integration Joint Board are set out in the Midlothian Integration Scheme, an extract of which is shown at **Appendix B** hereto. Under the Scheme Midlothian Council requires to nominate four Councillors, who will be voting members of the Integration Joint Board. There will also be four non-executive directors nominated by NHS Lothian who will likewise be voting members.
- 3.5** Following the Local Government elections in 2022, at its meeting of 24 May 2022, the Council nominated 4 elected members as follows:
- Councillor Kelly Parry
 - Councillor Colin Cassidy
 - Councillor Derek Milligan
 - Councillor Pauline Winchester
- The Council appointed Councillor Cassidy as its nominee to act as Vice-Chair.
- 3.6** Following the resignation of the Depute Provost, at its meeting of 21 March 2023, Council appointed a new Depute Provost. This appointment prompted appointment changes including Councillor McManus assuming the Cabinet Portfolio for Health and Social Care. Councillor McManus now replaces Councillor Cassidy on the Midlothian Joint Integrated Board.
- 3.7** The sixth anniversary of the establishment of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board fell on 20th August 2021 and the Council is therefore invited to nominate a member to act as Vice-Chair until the eighth anniversary in 2023, from the current membership (Councillors Parry, Milligan, McManus and Winchester).

- 3.8 In terms of the Integration Scheme, the Council will be entitled to appoint the Chairperson of the Board. The Council are requested to consider if whoever is appointed Vice-Chair at this meeting should automatically become Chairperson in August or whether a further paper be brought before Council at that time. If Council do not appoint a Chair before the MIJB meeting on 24 August, then in terms of the IJB Standing Orders, the Vice Chair at that time will take the meeting.

Disqualifying Criteria

- 3.8 The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Integration Joint Boards) (Scotland) Order 2014 also specifies that persons will be disqualified from being a member of an Integration Joint Board if they:-
- (a) have within the period of five years immediately preceding the proposed date of appointment been convicted of any criminal offence in respect of which they have received a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months (without the option of a fine);
 - (b) have been removed or dismissed for disciplinary reasons from any paid employment or office with a Health Board or local authority;
 - (c) are insolvent;
 - (d) have been removed from a register maintained by a regulatory body, other than where the removal was voluntary; or
 - (e) have been subject to a sanction under section 19(1)(b) to (e) of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc. (Scotland) Act 2000.

Midlothian Integration Joint Board Meeting Schedule and Development Workshops

- 3.9 A copy of the current schedule of meeting dates for 2023 is attached for information as **Appendix C**. Meetings are held virtually using MS Teams.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

4.2 Digital

There are no digital implications related to this report.

4.3 Risk

Failure to nominate a Vice-Chair to the Midlothian Integration Joint Board would mean that the Council was not meeting its statutory obligations and this in turn would restrict the Board in fulfilling its statutory duties.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

An equalities impact assessment has not been required in connection with this report.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

Appendix A - Additional Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

One of the key objectives of the Integration Joint Board is to have a positive impact on healthy inequalities. This will entail collaborating closely with Community Planning Partners, particularly in targeted work in areas of deprivation.

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

There are no direct implications related to this report.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The regulations accompanying the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 are quite unequivocal about the importance of working with localities and involving in a meaningful way all key stakeholders. This includes staff, users, family carers, voluntary sector, housing and independent providers of health and social care. Locally a Strategic Planning Group has been established in line with these regulations. Alongside this the Integration Joint Board has taken a particularly strong interest in developing effective mechanisms for communicating with users, carers and the general public.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The Integration Joint Board will have a duty to publish an annual performance report which measures progress against a suite of nationally agreed outcome indicators. Of critical importance will be those indicators which measure the shift in balance of care reducing delayed discharge and repeat emergency admissions.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

In keeping with the Christie Report on the future of public services the move towards integration of health and social care is driven by the recognition that the current model of service delivery will become unsustainable. Preventing ill health and enabling people to recover as far as possible from ill health, whether physical or mental, is a central theme of the strategic direction of the Integration Joint Board

A.8 Supporting a Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

Extract from Midlothian Integration Scheme

3. Local Governance Arrangements

3.1 Membership

- 3.1.1 The IJB shall have the following voting members:
- a) 4 councillors nominated by the Council; and
 - b) 4 non-executive directors nominated by NHS Lothian, in compliance with articles 3(4) and 3(5) of the Integration Joint Boards Order.
- 3.1.2 The Parties may determine their own respective processes for deciding who to nominate as voting members of the IJB.
- 3.1.3 Non-voting members of the IJB will be appointed in accordance with article 3 of the Integration Joint Boards Order.
- 3.1.4 The term of office of members shall be as prescribed by regulation 7 of the Integration Joint Boards Order.

3.2 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

- 3.2.1 The IJB shall have a chairperson and vice-chairperson who will both be voting members of the IJB.
- 3.2.2 The term of office of the chairperson will be two years, with the Council appointing the first chairperson for the period from the date on which the IJB is established until the second anniversary of that date, and NHS Lothian appointing the second chairperson for the period from the second anniversary of the date on which the IJB is established until the fourth anniversary of that date.
- 3.2.3 As from the fourth anniversary of the date on which the IJB is established, the power to appoint the chairperson will continue to alternate between each of the Parties on a two-year cycle.
- 3.2.4 The term of office of the vice chairperson will be two years, with NHS Lothian appointing the first vice chairperson for the period from the date on which the IJB is established until the second anniversary of that date. The provisions set out above under which the power of appointment of the chairperson will alternate between the Parties on a two-year cycle will apply in relation to the power to appoint the vice chairperson, and on the basis that during any period when the power to appoint the chairperson is vested in one Party, the other Party shall have power to appoint the vice-chairperson.
- 3.2.5 The Parties may determine their own processes for deciding who to appoint as chairperson or vice-chairperson.
- 3.2.6 Each Party may change its appointment as chairperson (or, as the case may be, vice chairperson) at any time; and it is entirely at the discretion of the Party which is making the appointment to decide who it shall appoint.

Midlothian Integration Joint Board

Meeting Schedule and Development Workshops Dates 2023

Day/Date	Time	Meeting
2023		
Thursday 11 th May 2023	2pm	Development Workshop
Thursday 1 st June 2023	2pm	MIJB Audit and Risk Committee
Thursday 15 th June 2023	2pm	MIJB Board
Summer Recess		
Thursday 24 th August 2023	2pm	MIJB Board
Thursday 7 th September 2023	2pm	MIJB Audit and Risk Committee
Thursday 21 st September 2023	2pm	Special MIJB Board (Annual Accounts)/ Development Workshop
Thursday 12 th October 2023	2pm	MIJB Board
Thursday 9 th November 2023	2pm	Development Workshop
Thursday 7 th December 2023	2pm	MIJB Audit and Risk Committee
Thursday 21 st December 2023	2pm	MIJB Board

Service Visits

Further service visits will be scheduled as required or at the request of members of the Midlothian Integration Joint Board.

Hybrid meeting protocol – interim arrangements

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- i. Adopt the draft hybrid meeting protocol on an interim basis until the review of Standing Orders is concluded; and
- ii. Approve the phased implementation plan for hybrid meetings as outlined in sections 3.5 to 3.7.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This report outlines the proposed approach to hybrid meetings of Council and its Committees and presents a draft hybrid meeting protocol for approval.

Wednesday 19 April 2023

Report Contact:

Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)

Saty.Kaur@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background/Main Body of Report

- 3.1** At its meeting of 30 November 2022, Council approved the installation of video conferencing technology to enable hybrid meetings of Council and its Committees. This installation is now complete.
- 3.2** To ensure that Council continues to comply with its governance framework, the need for a hybrid working protocol has been identified. Discussions are ongoing with other Local Authorities that use video-conferencing for their governance meetings; to learn from their experiences. This includes exploring alternative arrangements for online voting.
- 3.3** The hybrid working protocol is intended to guide members to chair and participate effectively in meetings of Council and its Committees that are delivered through video conferencing, ensuring that Standing Orders, the Scheme of Delegation and Scheme of Administration are adhered to.
- 3.4** As the Council is currently undertaking a review of Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation and Scheme of Administration, it is proposed that the hybrid meeting protocol is treated as draft (Appendix B) and adopted for an interim period, until the review of Standing Orders and associated Scheme(s) has concluded. It is anticipated that this will be in Q3 2023/24, at which time a final hybrid working protocol will be presented to Council for consideration and approval; alongside the revised Standing Orders and associated Scheme(s).

Implementation plan

- 3.5** As per the Standing Orders, the Council has a Cabinet and the following principal Committees, appointed in terms of Section 57 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:
- Council
 - Cabinet
 - Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee
 - Audit Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - General Purposes Committee
 - Local Review Body
 - Police and Fire and Rescue Board
 - Appeals Committee
 - Standards Committee
 - Petitions Committee
 - Community Asset Transfer Committee
 - Community Asset Transfer Review Committee

3.6 It is proposed to introduce the video-conferencing functionality on a phased approach to ensure that learning can be captured and the appropriate support can be provided to all participants. From the date of this report to the Summer recess (end June 2023), the following meetings would be held adopting the hybrid working protocol:

- Council
- Cabinet
- Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee
- Audit Committee
- Community Asset Transfer Committee
- Community Asset Transfer Review Committee

3.7 It is proposed that the following meetings will continue to meet either virtually or in-person (at the discretion of the Chair) until the Summer recess; and then move to hybrid from August 2023 onwards:

- Planning Committee
- General Purposes Committee
- Local Review Body
- Police and Fire and Rescue Board
- Appeals Committee
- Standards Committee
- Petitions Committee

3.8 The draft hybrid working protocol and phased implementation approach have been considered by the first meeting of the Cross Party Standing Orders Working Group and recommended for Council approval today.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

Financial implications relating to the installation of the video-conferencing technology was agreed at the Council meeting of December 2022. There are no additional financial implications associated with the adoption of the hybrid working protocol.

4.2 Digital

No implications other than those outlined in the report presented to Council in December 2022.

4.3 Risk

The use of video conferencing is a new approach for the Council to conduct its governance business. If Council do not adopt a hybrid working protocol, there is a risk that business may not be competent as

the protocol provides a framework to ensure that meetings comply with Standing Orders and associated Scheme(s).

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

Video conferencing enables meetings to be held using a hybrid approach. This widens the accessibility for participants and increases the transparency of decision making for communities through the live streaming of these meetings.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Draft Hybrid Working Protocol

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The decisions of the Council and its Committees are made under consideration of the contribution to delivery of all of the key priorities within 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

No negative impact identified.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

No negative impact identified.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

No negative impact identified.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

No negative impact identified.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

No negative impact identified.

**MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL
INTERIM PROTOCOL FOR THE USE OF VIDEO CONFERENCING
FACILITIES**

The following protocol shall be adopted in relation to the conduct of hybrid meetings of the Council and its various Committees. Participation via video conferencing will be permitted from remote locations where a secure videoconference link can be established.

Prior to the Meeting

- 1) Any Member wishing to participate by video conference link in any hybrid meeting of the Council, or of a Committee or Sub-Committee, must intimate his/her request in writing to the Clerk not less than **24 hours** in advance of the meeting taking place (excluding the day of the meeting)
 - a. Please note that the procedure and timescales quoted in Paragraph 1 of this protocol in regard to participation by video conference link will also apply to any other person who is required to take part in a regulatory or appeal hearing.
- 2) The Clerk will immediately notify the relevant Chair, and will take steps to ensure that the link can be established, that support for this link and for the Member using it can be provided, and that all associated facilities, e.g. telephone, email, are available.
- 3) For the avoidance of doubt, the Chair may not participate remotely in any hybrid meeting.
- 4) In the case of a number of requests being received for the establishment of multiple remote links for the same meeting, such requests will be considered in chronological order of receipt until the maximum number that the equipment can support has been reached, subject to priority being given to voting members of the relevant Committee.
- 5) Details of email facilities at the remote venue must be verified and tested.
- 6) The video conference link must be established and tested before the commencement of the meeting.
- 7) The video conferencing equipment must be arranged in such a way that the Chair can see the remote Member(s), as well as those present in the Chamber or meeting room.

At the meeting

- 8) The Chair will confirm at the outset and at any reconvening of the meeting that he/she can see and hear all participating Members. Any Member participating by remote link must also confirm at the outset and at any reconvening of the meeting that he/she can see and hear the proceedings at the main venue and at all other remote links.
- 9) Any Member participating by remote link who declares an interest in any item of business required to leave the room or determines to do so, shall log out of the meeting and will be advised by a member of the Democratic Services team by email when he/she may re-join the meeting.
- 10) Should any aspect of the video conference link fail, the Chair will call a short adjournment of up to fifteen minutes, the precise extent to be at the Chair's discretion, to determine whether the link can quickly be re-established. If not re-established within this time, the Chair will temporarily suspend discussion of the item under consideration at the time of link failure and continue with the remaining agenda items. Efforts should continue to re-establish the link. The Chair will return to the suspended item on re-establishment, or on confirmation that this cannot be done, or before the end of the meeting, whichever is the earliest. For clarity, the item under consideration at the point of any re-establishment of a link will be concluded before returning to the suspended item.

- 11) In the event of link failure, the remote Member(s) will be deemed to have left the meeting at the point of failure of the equipment and if the link cannot be re-established before the end of the meeting (as detailed in 10) then the presumption will be that the meeting should continue to deal with the item. If the link is successfully re-established then the remote Member(s) will deem to have returned at the point of re-establishment.
- 12) Should a remote Member wish to move a motion or amendment, the Member may arrange for this to be emailed on his/her behalf. In this case, if necessary, a short adjournment should be called to allow delivery of the email to the Clerk. Should the email equipment transmission fail, back-up arrangements for transmission by email should be available.
- 13) A remote Member participating in a vote will cast his/her vote as if participating in a roll call vote.

Regulatory Committees

- 14) As the Council must be able to demonstrate that decisions of a regulatory nature are taken on the basis of the same information being available to all Members involved in the decision, any additional papers tabled at a meeting of a Planning Committee, General Purposes Committee or any other Regulatory body must be emailed to the remote venue and time allowed, by a short adjournment if necessary, for these to be delivered to and read by the remote Member.
- 15) Similarly, to help ensure that a remote Member can clearly follow any officer presentation, separate copies of the presentation must be emailed to the remote venue and time allowed, by a short adjournment if necessary, for these to be delivered to the remote Member in addition to using the video conferencing link.

Please note that Paragraphs 14 and 15 will also apply to any other person who is required to take part in a Hearing.

Confidential/Exempt Items

- 16) **Should any member participate in the discussion of a confidential/exempt item, it is the member's responsibility to ensure that his/her location is secure and that proceedings cannot be heard by any member of the public not entitled to attend that part of the meeting. Members are specifically reminded of their responsibilities to maintain confidentiality in terms of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.**
- 17) The Chair will remind members of the terms of Paragraph 16 before entering into private session but it remains each member's individual responsibility to comply with the terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct at all times

Appointments

- 18) A remote Member may participate on the same basis as the other Members present in an Election, Selection or Appointment of Members of the Council to any particular office, Committee or other Group or outside body where the Council determines that the vote will be by show of hands. If the vote is taken, the remote Member will require to state his/her preferences via the link and will not be able to enjoy confidentiality.

Proposed Revised Schedule of Meeting Dates for January to June 2024

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director Place

Report for Decision

1 Recommendation

Council is recommended to approve the Schedule of Meeting Dates for January to June 2024 as detailed in Appendix B.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

Good governance requires that the Council forward plan dates of its governance meetings.

The schedule of dates have been developed taking into consideration school holidays and this schedule is now presented to Council for approval.

Date: Tuesday 18 April 2023

Report Contact:

Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)

saty.kaur@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background

- 3.1** The Council currently operates on a six weekly cycle of meetings with breaks incorporated for the summer recess, Christmas/ New Year and wherever possible school holidays.
- 3.2** The proposed reviewed schedule of meetings for January to June 2024 is shown at **Appendix B**.
- 3.3** Members are aware that a review of the Council's Governance arrangements is pending and should there be any change as a result of this work a further report would be brought forward to Council.
- 3.4** Members are also reminded that the facility also exists under Standing Orders for special meetings to be called as and when required.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

None

4.2 Digital

None

4.3 Risk

The availability of the schedule of meeting dates contributes to the mitigation of risk by:

- facilitating forward planning for meetings;
- contributing to the governance framework which allows the Council to conduct its business; and
- providing a timetable to which officers can work to ensure that reports are submitted timeously.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

This report does not recommend any change to policy or practice and therefore does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

4.5 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Proposed Revised Schedule of Meeting Dates January to June 2024

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

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 does not directly impact on Delivering Best Value but the absence of a schedule of meetings may result in delays in the ability to carry out proper scrutiny.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The report does not directly relate to involving communities

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The absence of a schedule of meetings may impact on Midlothian Council's performance and outcomes

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable

Proposed Schedule of Meetings Dates for January 2024 – June 2024

Date	Time	Meeting	Weeks since last meeting	Comments
School Holidays Friday 22 December 2023 – Monday 8 January 2024 (inclusive)				
January 2024				
Tuesday 16	14.00	Business Transformation Steering Group	First Meeting after Recess	
Monday 22	10.00	Planning Site Visits	“	
Tuesday 23	11.00	Cabinet	“	
Tuesday 23	13.00	Planning	“	2 weeks before LRB
Monday 29	11.00	Audit Committee	“	
Monday 29	14.00	Police Fire and Rescue Board	“	
Tuesday 30	10.00	General Purposes		
Midterm School Holidays Friday 9 – Friday 16 February 2024 inclusive				
February 2024				
Monday 5	10.00	Local Review Body Site Visits	“	
Monday 5	13.00	Local Review Body	“	2 weeks after Planning
Tuesday 6	11.00	Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee	“	2 weeks after Cabinet for call ins
Tuesday 6	14.30	JCG	“	2 weeks prior to Council
Thursday 8	10.00	Business Transformation Steering Group	3	
Monday 19	14.00	MNCT		
Tuesday 20	11.00	Midlothian Council	“	Budget setting
March 2024				
Monday 4	10.00	General Purposes	5	
Tuesday 5	11.00	Cabinet	6	Q3 reporting
Tuesday 5	14.00	Business Transformation Steering Group	4	
Monday 11	10.00	Planning Site Visits	-	
Tuesday 12	13.00	Planning Committee	7	2 weeks before LRB
Thursday 14	10.00	JCG	5	2 weeks prior to Council

Date	Time	Meeting	Weeks since last meeting	Comments
Monday 18	11.00	Audit Committee	7	
Tuesday 19	11.00	Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee		2 weeks after Cabinet for call ins
Monday 25	10.00	Local Review Body Site Visits	-	
Monday 25	13.00	Local Review Body	7	2 weeks after Planning
Tuesday 26	11.00	Midlothian Council	5	
Easter School Holidays Friday 29 March – Monday 15 April 2024 inclusive				
April 2024				
Monday 22	11.00	Police Fire and Rescue Board	12	Meets quarterly
Tuesday 23	11.00	Cabinet	7	
Tuesday 23	14.30	JCG	6	2 weeks prior to Council
Thursday 25	11.00	Business Transformation Steering Group	7	
Thursday 25	14.00	MNCT	10	
Monday 29	10.00	Planning Site Visits	-	
Tuesday 30	10.00	General Purposes	7	
Tuesday 30	13.00	Planning Committee	7	2 weeks before LRB
May 2024				
Tuesday 7	11.00	Midlothian Council	6	
Monday 13	10.00	Local Review Body Site Visits	-	
Monday 13	13.00	Local Review Body	7	2 weeks after Planning
Tuesday 14	11.00	Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee	8	3 weeks after Cabinet for call ins
Tuesday 14	14.00	Audit Committee	7	
Tuesday 28	11.00	Cabinet	5	Q4 reporting
June 2024				
Monday 3	10.00	Planning Site Visits	-	
Tuesday 4	13.00	Planning	5	2 weeks before LRB
Thursday 6	11.00	Business Transformation Steering Group	6	
Monday 10	10.00	General Purposes	6	
Monday 3	14.00	MNCT	5	

Date	Time	Meeting	Weeks since last meeting	Comments
Tuesday 11	11.00	Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee	4	2 weeks after Cabinet for call ins
Tuesday 11	14.30	JCG	7	2 weeks prior to Council
Monday 17	10.00	Local Review Body Site Visits	-	
Monday 17	13.00	Local Review Body	5	2 weeks after Planning
Monday 24	11.00	Audit Committee	6	
Tuesday 25	11.00	Midlothian Council	7	
School Holidays Friday 28 June – Tuesday 13 August 2024 (inclusive)				

Note: the following dates are not included:

Midlothian Integration Joint Board (MIJB) and the MIJB Audit and Risk Committee

Cost of living crisis - Cost of the school day**Report by Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- i. Note the ongoing work of the Midlothian Cross Party Cost of Living Task Force, Child Poverty Working Group and the Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate to tackle child poverty; and
- ii. Note that the Child Poverty Action Plan will be presented to September Council for consideration and approval; to
- iii. Approve the development of a local authority position and guidance on the cost of the school day and a school meal debt policy for 2023/24 onwards; also
- iv. Agree to the draft school meal debt policy be presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval; and
- v. Approve a one-off write-off of school meal debt, currently estimated at circa £32,000, in response to the current Cost of Living Crisis and delegate authority to Executive Director, Place, to apply this as appropriate

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

This paper outlines the steps that are being taken locally by Midlothian Council and key partners to respond to the Cost of Living Crisis faced by our communities, with a focus on the cost of the school day and in particular school meals.

Council is asked to approve the development of Cost of the School Day Guidance and a School Meal Debt Policy for consideration and approval by Cabinet.

Council is also asked to approve a one-off write-off of school meal debt, currently estimated at circa £32,000, in response to the current Cost of Living Crisis.

Date Tuesday 27 April 2023

Report Contact:

Saty Kaur, Chief Officer Corporate Solutions (Acting)

Saty.Kaur@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background

Cost of Living Task Force

- 3.1** In response to the increasing cost of living; the impact of rising food and fuel costs and the consequential pressure that this has on Midlothian households, at its [meeting of 28 June 2022](#), Council agreed to urgently establish a Cross Party Cost of Living Crisis Task Force ('the Task Force').
- 3.2** This crisis is unprecedented and escalating at a significant rate and therefore needs a joined-up immediate response to help those in need in our communities. The principal aims of the Task Force are to:
- conduct primary research into the impact Midlothian households are experiencing now and potential future impact from forecasted price rises.
 - identify and co-design interventions to mitigate the impacts of the crisis for Midlothian's households.
 - work closely with local organisations to identify resources that can help those affected by rising living costs with practical assistance; and
 - look at ways to support households to maximise their incomes and reduce outgoings.
- 3.3** In late 2021/22, Scottish Government announced an £80m Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery Fund ('fund') to be provided to Councils in 2021/22, with COSLA Leaders subsequently agreeing the basis for distribution between Councils. This funding is flexible and ultimately is designed to empower local authorities to utilise funding where they consider this necessary or justified based on local circumstances. Midlothian's allocation is £1.360 million.
- 3.4** The allocation of this funding has been directed by the Task Force with a number of actions being carried out over the 2022/23 financial year to support those experiencing financial hardship. This includes:
- Establishment of a Heat and Eat fund for those that are unsuccessful in Scottish Welfare Fund applications;
 - Establishment of four Warm and Well Hubs in Loanhead, Danderhall, Lasswade and Newbattle offering warmth, respite, soup, hot drinks and social activities;
 - Establishment of a Trusted Partner model to deliver grants
 - Housing Low Income Fund;
 - Funding for Woodburn Pantry and financial support to other foodbanks/food provision; and
 - Four Income Maximisation Officers linked to the Citizen's Advice Bureau

3.5 The Task Force also commissioned an independent study into the impacts of the crisis on Midlothian's households, using a blended approach of desktop research and focus groups and workshops with those with lived experience of poverty, third sector, public and voluntary organisations and a range of professional officers. At its meeting of 30 March 2023, an interim report of the findings¹ was presented to the Task Force.

3.6 Some of the initial findings presented are:

- **4,400 children**, just under **a quarter of children living in Midlothian**, were **living in poverty** going into the pandemic and cost of living crisis, slightly lower than the Scottish rate, which is in turn lower than the UK rate.
- Based on figures from the DWP / Scottish Government, in Midlothian:
 - **6,000 households** and growing are claiming **Universal Credit**
 - **4,000 adults of working age** are claiming **disability related benefits**
 - **4,000 adults of pension age** are claiming **disability related benefits**
 - **1,400 people** are claiming **Carers Allowance**
 - There are nearly **4,000 Crisis Grant** and **465 Community Care Grants** awards in Midlothian each year. Rejection rates are higher than Scottish average.
- The study estimates that:
 - **17,000 to 21,000 adults** in Midlothian **cannot afford to turn their heating on** to keep their home warm.
 - **28,000 to 34,000 adults** are quite/ very **worried about energy bills**.
 - **21,000 cannot afford** to eat **balanced meals**.
 - **8,000 went hungry due** to lack of money in the last month.
 - **8,000 missed a priority payment** over the last three months.
 - **16,000** have had their **mental health/ health negatively affected**.

A full report on recommendations, actions and next steps will be presented to the Task Force in Q1 2023/24. A diagram highlighting current drivers of poverty in Midlothian can be found in Appendix B.

Figures show that the proportion of children living in absolute poverty before housing costs in Midlothian in 2022 was below the rate for Scotland (14.3% compared to 16.5%).

¹ Interim Summary Paper for Midlothian Cost of Living Task Force, authors Nick Hopkins Consulting and Eddy Graham

Tackling Child Poverty

- 3.7** Actions identified by the Child Poverty Working Group to reduce child poverty in Midlothian are focused on the three drivers of child poverty identified by the Scottish Government:
- Increasing income from employment
 - Reducing the costs of living
 - Increasing the uptake of social security and benefits in kind
- 3.8** The Child Poverty Working Group and Children, Young People and Partnerships Division are supporting work towards achieving the Scottish Government targets to eradicate child poverty and our aim over the life of our Child Poverty Action Plan and other statutory plans (appendix D) is to reduce the number of families and children living in relative poverty in Midlothian. The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out interim targets for Scotland to reach by 2023/24 if the ambitious 20230 targets are to be achieved. Significant work has been undertaken through actions in previous plans. The effect of the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis continue to affect families and significant work is needed to ensure that children in Midlothian are protected from the impact of poverty.
- 3.9** Steps have been taken to review our planning and governance structures to improve our ability to address the drivers of child poverty through actions that can be taken locally. We have been supported by the Improvement Service to undertake a self-assessment process and will continue to work with them to further develop our poverty strategy and respond to the cost of living crisis.
- 3.10** The landscape around child poverty in Midlothian is vast and complex, involving a wide range of partners. Work is planned to map this landscape, as well as outcomes and activities, to ensure lines of sight and responsibility are clear and activity is well coordinated across Midlothian. The Child Poverty Working Group is responsible for the development of the annual [Local Child Poverty Action Report](#) that identifies actions we are taking to address child poverty and reports on progress.
- 3.11** Key areas of action will include:
- A review of welfare and debt advice support across Midlothian;
 - Strengthening of financial wellbeing pathways to support families most in need; and
 - Supporting parental employability.
- Work is underway to develop a Midlothian Poverty Profile that will allow us to measure progress against key indicators of poverty and risk, and ensure that we are accessing, gathering, analysing and using relevant data to inform actions to reduce poverty.

Cost of the school day: Free school meals and school clothing grants

3.12 All pupils in primaries 1 to 5 and special schools are entitled to free school lunches during term-time. Pupils above primary 5 are eligible for free school meals if their parents or guardians are in receipt of any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, but not Working Tax Credit, with an income of less than £18,725
- Both Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an income of up to £8,717
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £726

3.13 All children in early learning and childcare can get a free meal on the days they attend and 16-18 year olds that receive any of the above in their own right can claim free school meals.

3.14 In addition to free school meals, an annual clothing grant is available to low income households of £120 (primary pupils) and £150 (secondary pupils). This can be applied for on the [Council's website](#). Council officers will be seeking to update and streamline the information on our website and our application process to support those entitled to this grant.

3.15 The Council will issue a letter for an automatic award if all of the following criteria is met:

- In receipt of an award for the previous school year
- In receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax reduction
- In receipt of:
 - Income Support
 - Or income-based Job Seekers Allowance
 - Or any income related element of Employment and Support Allowance

3.16 Data analysis undertaken to inform the Child Poverty Action Plan found that the uptake of free school meals is higher than other neighbouring authorities at P1-P5 but lower at other stages²³. Overall our data does indicate that there is a significant level of under subscription. Work is underway to develop a communications campaign to raise awareness of the supports available, which also includes access to free bus travel.

² 49.7% for P6-P7, lower than East Lothian, Edinburgh and West Lothian

³ [School Healthy Living Survey statistics 2022 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/school-healthyliving-survey-2022/pages/1-2.aspx)

The Public Health Scotland report, Child Poverty in Midlothian, April 2023, reported that Midlothian:

- Has a higher proportion of very low paid workers in the local authority
- Compared favourably in quantitative terms on childcare availability and in the proportion of children with developmental concerns
- Young adults are less likely to participate in full-time education, but more likely to have access to Modern Apprenticeships

School meal costs and current debt

- 3.17** For P6 and P7, a meal costs £2.10. For secondary school a meal costs £2.30, and there is no charge for nursery meals. There is a daily choice of two hot meals, soups, sandwiches, desserts and drinks, and fresh fruit and vegetables. The menu is designed to offer a nutritionally balanced lunch, following national guidelines. Midlothian Council is committed to sourcing from UK suppliers where possible, using local suppliers for meat, vegetables and milk and all fish comes from sustainable sources. Menus are designed to meet as wide a range of diets as possible, such as religious and vegetarian. Menus can also be adapted for medical conditions such as allergies or intolerances to foods. Children on special medical diets will meet their nutritional requirements during their lunch time meal. Sample menus for nursery, primary and secondary can be found [School lunches | Midlothian Council](#)
- 3.18** As of 31 March 2023, the school meal debt across all Midlothian schools totalled £32,466.81.
- 3.19** This debt is an accumulation over multiple financial years. Where debt has been incurred by a pupil who has now left, this is considered a bad debt and recourse to clear this is administratively challenging.

National debt policy development

- 3.20** COSLA has been working with a range of partners to develop a better understanding of the scale and impact of school meal debt across Scotland. A survey was issued to all Local Authorities in August 2022 on the subject of school meal debt and a range of research and [reports](#) have been published by Aberlour Children's Charities as well as written evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Social Justice and Social Security Committee's inquiry on low income and debt. The Committee's [report](#), "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul: Low income and the debt trap", was published in early July 2022.
- 3.21** In February 2023 COSLA published Good Practice Principles for Managing School Meal Debt which have been produced to promote good practice in the management of school meal debt. These Principles are set out below: [COSLA Publish Good Practice Principles for Managing School Meal Debt - 20th February 2023 | COSLA](#)

- 1) Meeting the needs; upholding the rights; and supporting the welfare of children, young people, and their families in line with their individual circumstances should be of paramount concern in the design and implementation of local authorities' school meal debt policy and practice. Consideration should be given to how the views of children, young people and their families can be sought and drawn upon to help shape local authority policy and practice.
- 2) Local authorities' approaches to school meal debt management, including all aspects of policy and practice, should be compassionate, proportionate and seek to minimise as far as possible the stigmatisation of children, young people, and their families.
- 3) Processes for school meal debt management should be as clear and accessible as possible. Where barriers are identified, e.g. parents/carers face difficulty navigating online systems, consideration should be given to what support can be provided to address this.
- 4) A co-ordinated approach should be taken to designing and implementing school meal debt policy and practice. The appropriate role of relevant departments (e.g. education, catering, finance, and revenues & benefits) within local authorities, as well as individual school staff, should be considered, as well as how they should work together.
- 5) Local authorities should consider setting a threshold at which unpaid sums will formally become 'debt' and be treated as such. A threshold of around one month's worth of meals is suggested, based on the fact that some families choose to clear debt after each pay-day.
- 6) Local authorities should consider undertaking a routine review of families' summary debt position, to reduce the risk of families accumulating large debts without the authority or school being aware of this, and enable the timely provision of support where this is needed.
- 7) Consideration should be given to effective communication practices to ensure that parents/carers receive the right information, at the right time, in an accessible manner, from the most suitable person.
- 8) Consideration should be given and efforts made to promote, maximise and address any barriers to take-up of free school meals (and other available support e.g. the school clothing grant; free bus travel for under 22s) for those families who are eligible. A number of local authorities have auto-award systems in place whereby free school meals are automatically applied to families who receive other qualifying benefits, and this approach should be considered as a way to support access and take-up. The Child Poverty Action Group's [Cost Of The School Day project](#) also provides practical tips, training and materials to reduce costs for families.

9) When staff become aware that a household is facing financial or other difficulties, efforts should be made to ensure that wherever possible families are signposted to, and, if appropriate, supported to access, available sources of support which are relevant to their needs. This could include:

- Financial advice and support services
- Income maximisation/ welfare rights support
- Cost of living support, including cash payments
- Employability support
- Social work or care support
- Support for unpaid carers

10) All local authorities have the power to grant discretionary free school meals to pupils who do not meet the national eligibility criteria, where families are experiencing financial hardship. Consideration should be given to whether and/or how the local authority will use the provision of discretionary free school meals as a mechanism for supporting families facing financial hardship who are ineligible for free school meals. Further information on approaches to discretionary provision can be found in the annexe.

11) Decisions on clearing school meal debt across an authority should remain at the discretion of each local authority.

12) Consideration should be given to the range of approaches and mechanisms that could be used to support families or clear debts in particular cases where a need is identified, within the flexibilities and discretion afforded to local authorities and Head Teachers. For example, consideration could be given to:

- Using school hardship funds or Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to support discretionary meal provision or debt clearance in particular cases;
- Flexible use of available free school meals, accounting for absence and take-up rates amongst pupils who are registered for FSM.

3.22 Building on the COSLA guidance, it is proposed to develop a Midlothian Council school meal debt policy, informed by the work of the Cost of Living Task Force. This would be developed and presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval. In the absence of a current school meal debt policy; Council is asked to agree to a one-off debt write-off in light of the current cost of living crisis.

3.23 It is intended that the Child Poverty Working Group and the GIRFEC Board's prioritised work will be to ensure equitable income maximisation and debt advice and will include support for those incurring school meal debt as referenced in paragraph 3.8.

Cost of the school day: Guidance for schools

- 3.24** School costs can put pressure on low-income families and put children and young people at risk of missing out on opportunities, affect their self-confidence and esteem confident and experience stigma.

‘Children living in poverty are more likely to have issues including mental health problems, gain fewer qualifications, experience stigma and bullying at school and be at higher risk of being care experienced.’

Audit Scotland September 2022

- 3.25** Our schools are working hard to minimise costs and ensure equal access to opportunities. The list below is illustrative but not exhaustive of current actions to reduce costs:

- Subsidised school trips for example pantomimes and residential
- Family cooking classes
- Subsidised or free breakfast clubs/emergency breakfast packs
- Uniform P1 Starter Packs and uniform banks
- Digital device charging
- Provision of sportswear, school club strips and outdoor learning equipment
- In school counselling and interventions to support resilience, mental health, therapeutic services and nurture
- Hygiene products, period products, shower gel, shampoo etc.

- 3.26** Current actions to reduce costs for children and families are largely but not solely PEF funded and as a result are not consistent across Midlothian. The Children ,Young People and Partnerships Directorate is working together with key partners to strengthen our commitment and action in reducing the impact of poverty across Midlothian and reaffirmed this at our recent service and partner conference 19th April 2023. The conference provided an opportunity to consider current drivers and impact of poverty within each locality and consider our strategic actions now and in the future.

- 3.27** Potential future actions identified by attendees at the conference include:

- Midlothian Equity Policy to secure consistency across all education providers on key areas which impact cost of the school day;
- Ensure consistent use of cost of the school day toolkit
- Review family learning offer and support to include healthy eating on a budget, meal preparation ideas, budgeting
- Increase support to young people to claim Education Maintenance Allowance
- Guidance on school uniform policies

- 3.28** Further to this activity the Children Young People and Partnership Directorate will undertake further work to understand more fully recent factors adding to financial pressures facing families and the hidden

costs associated with fully participating in school life. By working directly with pupils, staff and parents/carers we will be able to provide local guidance for schools and partner organisations to remove and reduce cost barriers. The Children, Young People and Partnerships Directorate is holding a second staff and partner Tackling Child Poverty Conference in June 2023 to build on and sustain momentum with the work and actions identified at the April conference. The Children young People and Partnerships Directorate is holding a Learner Conference in June 2023 to inform our guidance, policies and plans to ensure learner voice influences the actions we undertake to tackle child poverty and the costs of the school day.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital and Risk)

4.1 Resource

The cost of the write-off will be met from existing budgets. Council is requested to delegate the authority to the Executive Director, Place, to apply this as appropriate.

4.2 Digital

Not applicable

4.3 Risk

Writing off the school meal debt may result in the unintended consequence of an increase in non-payment for school meals. As indicated in the body of this report, school meal debt will be included in the factors considered by income maximisation officers when determining which families to support.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities (if required a separate IIA must be completed)

An integrated equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure the Cost of the School Day Guidance has been developed to ensure no negative impact on individuals or groups.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

See Appendix A

Appendices

Appendix A – Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Drivers of Poverty

Appendix C – Striving for Equity in Opportunity - Making ‘Better’ Connections

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Individuals and communities have improved health and learning outcomes

No child or household live in poverty

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

This report does not directly impact on Best Value

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Cost of the School Day Guidance will be developed in partnership with relevant stakeholders

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The content of this report does not directly impact on performance and outcomes. A Cost of the School Day Guidance paper will support children and young people to participate more fully in educational experiences

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

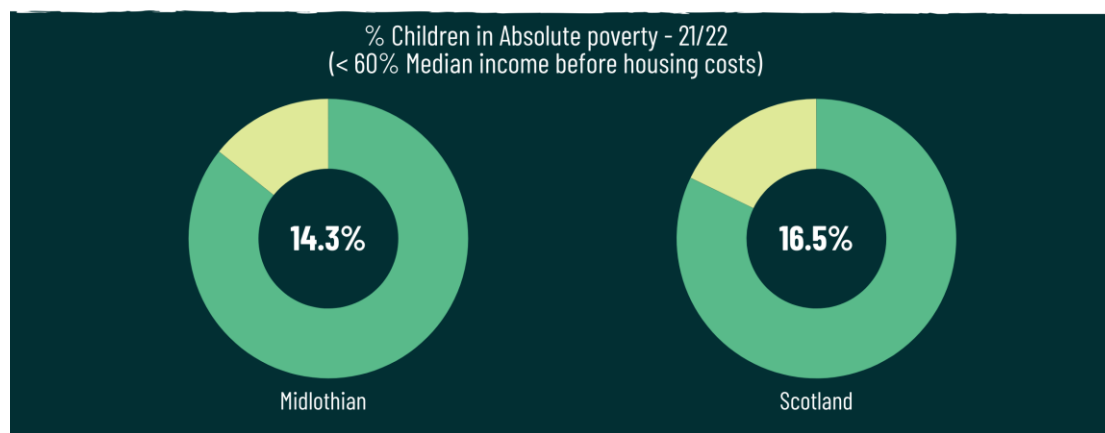
The Cost of the School Day Guidance once developed will support children and young people to access fully their educational experiences

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

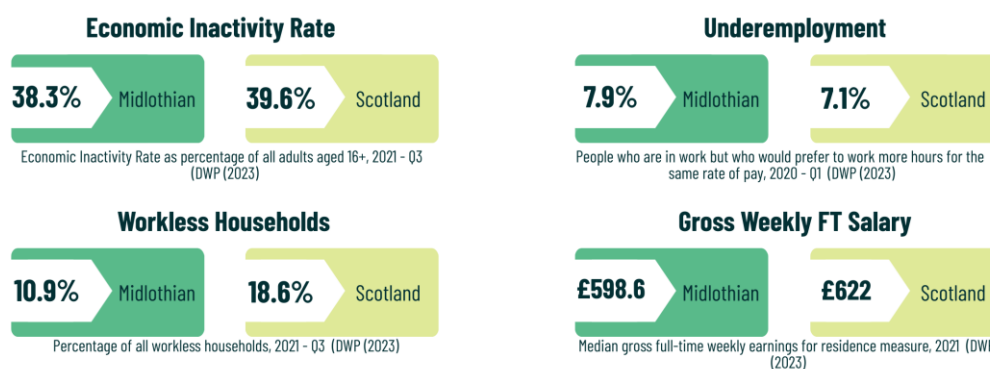
Not applicable

APPENDIX B

Drivers of Poverty



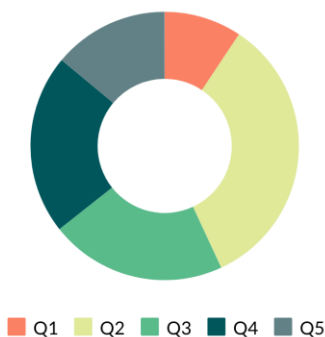
Work and earnings



Additional Context

SIMD profile of school pupils

Current school roll



FSM Registrations of school pupils

Current school roll



% Adults physical or MH problem - Households with children

As stated by all adults with children in SHS 2019 (Scot Gov. 2023)



APPENDIX C: Striving for Equity in Opportunity - Making 'Better' Connections

Education Service Plan 2023-24

(Education (Scotland) Act 1980; Education (Scotland) Act 2016; Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. 2000)

1. Raising attainment to ensure that all children & young people achieve outcomes which lead to positive destinations
2. Ensure that all children & young people feel valued & included, and have the same opportunities to succeed

The Promise

"You will grow up loved, safe and respected"

The Promise will continue to be one of our key drivers to deliver transformational change across the Directorate

Integrated Children's Service Plan 2023-26

(Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014)

1. We will ensure Midlothian's CYP have timely access to appropriate emotional, mental health and wellbeing support
2. We will ensure Midlothian's CYP receive the appropriate needs-based support whilst they are assessed for neurodevelopmental concerns
3. We will provide families with holistic support to help to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and families
4. We will reduce the number of families and children living in relative poverty
5. Partner agencies will work together to commission the services that are needed to fulfil the priorities identified in the Children's Services Plan
6. We will ensure CYP will, where required, transition into adult services in a planned, safe, and seamless manner
7. All professionals are appropriately trained and equipped to deliver services in a trauma-informed way
8. We will ensure the rights of every CYP in Midlothian are upheld by embedding UNCRC into daily practice and processes
9. We will work to ensure families are supported to stay together at home
10. Families are supported in a way that demonstrably improves outcomes for mothers and babies
11. We will strengthen GIRFEC practice and ensure information is shared proactively to aid prevention and early intervention
12. We will ensure CYP are able to safely and easily make use of facilities and activities across Midlothian

CHILD AT THE CENTRE

CLD Plan

(Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013)

1. Support the development of staff and volunteers through excellent training and personal development opportunities
2. Support services and community groups to become more resilient for the future
3. Gather more views to influence the CLD partnership offer for future years
4. Increase the number of people who can take part by removing barriers to participation
5. Increase digital participation
6. Promote a strong focus on prevention, early intervention and reducing inequalities
7. Improve opportunities for good health and wellbeing through joint working, grant funding and use of outdoor spaces
8. Provide a mixed learning offer - online, blended and face to face
9. Support young people, adults and families to improve their life chances through the development of skills for learning, life and work
10. Enhance our shared partnership endeavour by further embedding the Compact Track values in our work
11. Assist communities to meet local needs and develop their capacity including the effective use of volunteers

'Children living in poverty are more likely to have issues including mental health problems, gain fewer qualifications, experience stigma and bullying at school and be at higher risk of being care experienced.'

Audit Scotland September 2022

Children's Rights Report 2022 and Plan 2023-24

(Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014)

The next iteration of the Integrated Children's Services Plan (2023-26) will offer a fully inclusive approach to highlighting the key principles of UNCRC and how the principles are embedded into our everyday work

Child Poverty Action Plan 2023

(Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017)

1. Anti-poverty work will be shaped and influenced by people with lived experience
2. Taking a preventative and coordinated approach to tackling child poverty at a strategic and operational level
3. Benefit income maximised for individuals and families
4. Household income and financial resilience is improved for low income households
5. Individuals and families have access to additional mitigation supports to assist with the cost of living crisis
6. Place-based approaches to poverty support better outcomes for communities

Community Council Grants 2023-2024**Report by Fiona Robertson, Executive Director Children, Young People and Partnerships****Report for Decision****1 Recommendations**

Council is recommended to approve the allocation of £6,610 for Community Council Grants detailed in Appendix C.

2 Purpose of Report/Executive Summary

The grants scheme for Community Councils is available on an annual basis. Funding of up to £300 is available each year to support administration and general running costs as well as additional funding to deliver new projects which benefit their local community. £10,000 is available for period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

This report asks Council to approve the recommendations of the scoring panel for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Date 18 April 2023**Report Contact: Karen McGowan 07990 136821**
karen.mcgowan@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background/Main Body of Report

- 3.1.1** Community Councils are set up by statute by the Local Authority and run by local residents to act on behalf of its area and residents.
- 3.1.2** The Midlothian Scheme for Community Councils states that the Council will provide an annual administrative grant to cover operating costs and publicity and any additional support services or resourcing required. Community Councils are also eligible to apply for any other grants Midlothian Council provides.
- 3.1.3** In June 2021, Council approved grant funding of £30,000 for Community Councils to cover the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2025. This equates to £10,000 per annum. All 15 Community Councils and the Federation of Community Councils are eligible to apply for up to £300 annually as a contribution towards general running costs. They can also apply for additional funding to support new or existing projects which benefit their community.
- 3.1.4** 13 Community Councils applied for a total of £8,210 from the budget of £10,000 for period 2023/24. It is recommended that £6,610 is approved, supporting 13 Community Councils.
- 3.2.1** Clear guidance was issued with the application forms detailing the information required under each section (Appendix D). Offers of advice and support were made to anyone considering making an application from Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability (CLLE) staff.
- 3.2.2** A core group of council officers from CLLE facilitated and recorded the sessions but did not score applications. The scoring panel was convened including Council officers, members of the Third Sector Interface (TSI) and volunteer community members.
- 3.2.3** Panel members were asked to declare any vested interest or potential conflict of interest in advance of the panels. Those who declared this were asked to leave whilst the application was scored.
- 3.3.1** All assessments followed clear scoring criteria and were scored out of 35.
- 3.3.2** Unsuccessful applicants or those receiving less than requested can ask for detailed feedback on their application on request.

4 Report Implications (Resource, Digital, Risk and Equalities)

4.1 Resource

The applications made and recommended awards for community council grants are included in Appendix 1 of this report.

4.2 Digital

A web based form was used to ensure that it was simple to complete online and support was provided.

4.3 Risk

The existing grants programme has been risk assessed and these risks are included in the Council's Risk Register. The programme is subject to internal audit that helps reduce the risks associated with managing the programme. The processes associated with awarding grants includes robust risk assessment procedures to ensure compliance with Following the Public Pound guidance.

Grants are normally paid in advance on 1st April 2023. An end of year report including evidence of financial spend/audited accounts is required at the end of the grant period. Further grant offers will not be considered or paid until this information is received.

4.4 Ensuring Equalities

The integrated impact assessment concluded that the grant programme will have a positive impact on equality groups across Midlothian.

4.5 Additional Report Implications (See Appendix A)

Appendices

Appendix A - Additional Report Implications

Appendix B – Recommended list of awards for Community Councils

Appendix C – Sample application form

APPENDIX A – Additional Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

The statutory purposes of community councils are set out in Section 51 (2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and included in the Midlothian Scheme for Community Councils. Community Councils contribute both to local democracy and to meeting the 4 key outcomes within 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

A.4 Delivering Best Value

Scoring all applications against key criteria has ensured that Best Value is a key part of the assessment process. One of the questions assessed focused on whether the project was good value for money and demonstrated realistic costs.

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The application forms and criteria were co-produced with the voluntary sector and designed based on feedback from previous and potential applicants about the process and information available. Stakeholders were involved in scoring panel to assess applications.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

By supporting Community Councils the grants will have a positive impact on the performance and outcomes of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership and encourage local participation.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Community Councils represent the local community to the local authority and have an important role to play in local democracy. They facilitate a wide range of activities which promote the well-being of their communities and bring people together to make things happen, and advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes and concerns on behalf of local communities.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Supporting Community Councils will ensure that they play a key role in supporting sustainable development.

Appendix 1 – Recommended list of Community Council Awards 2023-24

Amount available £10,000

ORGANISATION	FUNDING FOR	REQUESTED	AWARDED
Rosewell & District Community Council	Running costs including room hire	£550	£550
Dalkeith & District Community Council	Running costs	£300	£300
Newtongrange Community Council (partial funding)	Running costs, website hosting and defib pads	£1,340	£1,190
Penicuik and District Community Council (PDCC)	Running costs and support for citizen of the year celebration	£575	£575
Mayfield and Easthouses Community Council	Running costs including room hire, projector for use at CC meetings	£1,100	£1,100
Bonnyrigg & District Community Council (partial funding)	Contribution towards running costs, support of Christmas light switch on and summer gala day	£2,350	£900
Eskbank & Newbattle Community Council	Running costs	£300	£300
Moorfoot Community Council	Running costs	£400	£400
Roslin & Bilston Community Council	Running costs	£300	£300
Danderhall and District Community Council	Running costs	£300	£300
Tynewater Community Council	Running costs	£300	£300
Loanhead & District Community Council	Running costs	£300	£300
Damhead and District Community Council	Running costs	£95	£95
TOTAL		£8,210	£6,610

Midlothian Council SMALL GRANT Fund Application Form 2023/24 (£3,000 or less)



GRANT STREAMS

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Name of organisation:	
Name of main contact:	
Address:	
Postcode:	
Telephone:	
E-Mail:	

What type of organisation are you?	
Constituted group (including sports clubs)	
Registered Charity	
Company Ltd by Guarantee	
Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee (CIC)	
Community Council	
Other	

What is your organisation's annual turnover in the most recent financial year? (total income). If your organisation has been operating for less than 12 months please provide an estimate.	
---	--

Q1. Where will the project take place?	
---	--

How many people will benefit from this project or activity? <i>(for example are involved in or participate in the project)</i>		
When will the project or activity start and finish?	Start	
	Finish	

Q2. Briefly describe what activities and/or items you would like us to fund. Please include in this section details of any other local organisations or projects you may be working with. (250 words max)

Q3. Why are these activities or projects needed and how will they meet the outcome of your selected grant stream? Please also tell us how you will evaluate your project. (400 words max)

Q4. What practical steps will you take to make your project accessible to your intended community? (for example; language, disability requirements, publicity)

PROJECT COSTS

Q5. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the costs of this project?

Budget Heading	2022/2023 £
TOTAL COSTS	
TOTAL REQUESTED	

Q6. Are you currently in receipt of any other income from Midlothian Council

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please specify:

Midlothian Council Speed Policy Review

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

Report for Decision

1 Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- i. Approves the development towards implementation of the proposed 20mph and 30mph speed limits across Midlothian and the associated action plan; and
- ii. Requests the Chief Officer – Place to return to Council with a proposal for roads with other speed limits and an associated action plan for implementation.

2 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the speed limits review for 20mph and 30mph roads in order to improve road safety. An action plan for the implementation of these speed limits across Midlothian, its towns and settlements is provided as an appendix.

Date: 20th April 2023
Report Contact: Derek Oliver, Chief Officer - Place
Email: derek.oliver@midlothian.gov.uk

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, the 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 2022. This included direct engagement sessions with Council Officers, Community Councils, key stakeholders and Councillors.
- 3.7 In order to target and prioritise interventions, assessed on a consistent basis and an established baseline, and to allocate budget and funding for necessary infrastructure improvements, an action plan has been devised and is appended for Council approval prior to implementation.
- 3.8 In December 2022, Midlothian Council noted the AECOM Midlothian Speed Policy Consultation Summary Report and requested that the Chief Officer – Place return to Council in early 2023 with an Action Plan to implement appropriate schemes.
- 3.9 The underlying principles of Midlothian Council's Speed Limit Policy include:
 - Determining the function of the road and its characteristics in terms of movement and place when examining and considering the speed limit
 - The needs of all road users to be fully taken into account when considering the implications of speed limits.
- 3.10 20mph streets within towns are mostly residential, or see high

pedestrian and cyclist movements and tend to be areas where motor vehicle movement is not deemed the primary function. The policy sets out the following guidance on characteristics for the application of 20mph speed limits:

- A clearly defined core, such as a central shopping area or community facility;
- Several facilities generating active travel movements;
- Notable development depth;
- Almost continuous frontage;
- Numerous junctions; and
- Significant pedestrian activity throughout the day.

- 3.1.1 Of the streets which were reviewed, there are approximately 850 instances of streets where currently a 30mph speed limit are proposed to reduce to a 20mph speed limit. There are approximately 70 instances of streets which are currently a 30mph speed limit which are proposed to remain at a 30mph speed limit.
- 3.1.2 The results are presented in the appended report by Council Ward in order to highlight the changes that are proposed on a local basis.
- 3.1.3 If Council approve the development towards implementation of speed limit changes, the formal Traffic Regulation Order process will commence and implementation of the action plan shall follow.

4 Action Plan

- 4.1 With Council approval, the formal statutory process to amend speed limits and introduce any traffic calming measures will commence. Taking account of time to consider objections, it should be anticipated that the full process would be finalised over a nine month period.
- 4.2 Any significant objections to the proposed speed limits, relative to specific locations, will require the Council's Cabinet to consider and make a decision on whether it proceeds, is amended or is abandoned.
- 4.3 Iteratively, respective speed signage will be temporarily covered utilising adhesive speed signs to coincide with the new speed limit ahead of the installation of permanent signage.
- 4.4 Due to statutory and consultation process dependencies, it is not feasible to provide a detailed action plan as to delivery datelines. As the process progresses, the installation of gateways, exiting signage, countdown signs and roundels will be prioritised in accordance with the speed limit policy and consultation report. Update reports will be provided to Council.

5 Report Implications

5.1 Resource

Implementation of gateways, signage and associated lining will be approximately £275,000. This will be borne from existing road safety and street lighting capital budgets, over a three year period.

5.2 Digital

Information on the approved actions will be displayed on the Council's website and social media channels.

5.3 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.

5.4 Ensuring Equalities

An Equality Impact Assessment will be necessary on the implementation of the action plan and will be factored into future reports.

5.5 Additional Report Implications

See Appendix A

Appendix 1.

AECOM Midlothian 20mph Speed Limit Review 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 actions aim for improvement and enhancement of our environment.

Midlothian 20mph Speed Limit Review

Midlothian Council

13 April 2023

Quality information

Prepared by	Checked by	Verified by	Approved by
Elliot Bayley Consultant	Iain Hamilton Principal Consultant	David McKechnie Regional Director	David McKechnie Regional Director

Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
1	24 April 2023	Client Comments	IH	Iain Hamilton	Principal Consultant
2	24 April 2023	Client Comments	IH	Iain Hamilton	Principal Consultant
3	5 May 2023	Proposed Speed Limits Reviewed and Amended Current Speed Limits to be Reviewed and Amended	DD	David Dewar	Associate Director

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1. Background and Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Midlothian Council has commissioned AECOM to undertake a review of speed limits across the Council area with a view to adjusting speed limits to 20mph in appropriate locations. Following this initial review the Council has requested that the study extend to a review of other streets within the Councils area which are currently subject to a speed limit of 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph.

1.2 Background

In response to Transport Scotland's review of their approach to the setting of speed limits across Scotland, Midlothian Council has reviewed its own policy for the setting of speed limits and the criteria that should apply to different speed limits. The purpose of this was to achieve clarity in the setting of appropriate speed limits for different setting and so that communities have a greater understanding of what speed limits should apply in their area.

Progressing with this work the Council is now moving to implementing this new policy through a review of current speed limits to establish if there is a requirement to alter speed limits throughout the Council area.

2. Policy and Guidance

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a brief summary of the relevant policy and guidance documents which have been used to inform this study.

2.2 National Transport Strategy 2

National Transport Strategy 2 (NTS2) was published in 2020 and sets out the vision for Scotland's transport system over the next 20 years. The vision of the strategy is to have a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping to deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.

Accompanying NTS2 is the NTS2 Delivery Plan which sets out actions for how the vision of NTS2 will be delivered, providing an overview for transport investment and projects. Key to the Midlothian Speed Limit Review is the priority of the Delivery Plan to improve safety by reducing road casualties and delivering the outcomes of Scotland's Road Safety Framework.

To deliver safer roads, the Plan states that Transport Scotland will ensure all appropriate roads in built up areas will have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025 as it seeks to reduce perceptions of road danger, encourage people to walk, wheel and cycle, and create more pleasant street and neighbourhoods by providing a more equitable balance between different road users and will contribute to the implementation of the safe system.

2.3 Midlothian Council Speed Policy

Midlothian Council have undertaken a road safety and hierarchy review which subsequently led to the production of a Speed Policy document which sets out the Council's objectives, guidance which informs the policies and how they would be implemented. The document states that underlying principles of Midlothian Council's speed limit policy include:

- Determining the function of the road and its characteristics in terms of movement and place when examining and considering the speed limit
- The needs of all road users to be fully taken into account when considering the implications of speed limits.

Section 4.2 states that 20mph street within towns are mostly residential, or see high pedestrian and cyclist movements and tend to be areas where motor vehicle movement is not deemed the primary function. The policy sets out the following guidance on characteristics for the application of 20mph speed limits:

- A clearly defined core, such as a central shopping area of community facility;
- Several facilities generating active travel movements;
- Notable development depth;
- Almost continuous frontage;
- Numerous junctions; and
- Significant pedestrian activity throughout the day.

3. Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an outline of the methodology that has been employed in reviewing the speed limits currently in use in Midlothian and determining whether or not these should be revised.

3.2 Methodology Applied

In order to undertake the review of 20mph and 30mph speed limits, a list of approximately 1,700 streets or sections of streets was provided from Midlothian Council area, including identification for which town, village or other settlement they were located in. This was accompanied by GIS data which included information on existing speed limits on each of the streets provided. The settlements which were reviewed are:

- Bonnyrigg
- Dalkeith
- Danderhall
- Gorebridge
- Howgate
- Lasswade
- Loanhead
- Newtongrange
- Pathhead
- Penicuik
- Rosewell
- Roslin

Using the list provided, every street was assessed, using desktop tools, against the criteria for a 20mph street as set out in the Midlothian Council Speed Policy Document using a simple 'Yes' or 'No' system. A street would be marked with a 'Yes' next to a particular criterion if it was judged to match it and vice versa for 'No'. Greater detail on how each of these criteria was applied is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Application of Midlothian 20mph Criteria

Criteria	Contributing Factors
A clearly defined core, such as a central shopping area of community facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On or leading to an area with a high concentration of facilities relative to the size of the area (e.g. in a small residential setting, a community centre was considered "core") • Near an area which would attract a high number of travel movements (e.g. a group of shops or bus stops) • On or leading to an area considered central to a settlement, where movements are likely to congregate (e.g. main thoroughfares through settlements) • Likely to incorporate schools, high streets, community centres, sports centres and other community facilities
Several facilities generating active travel movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corridors likely to be a focal point of active travel movements (e.g. leading to schools) • On or near routes with dedicated active travel facilities such as cycle lanes
Notable development depth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of significant density of residences or commercial properties likely to attract travel movements
Almost continuous frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streets which continuously have properties facing onto them and are therefore likely to experience travel movements associated with them

Criteria	Contributing Factors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets with significant numbers of residential driveways accessed from them
Numerous junctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets with numerous points of conflicting traffic movements where slower speeds would allow these movements to be undertaken more safely
Significant pedestrian activity throughout the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets with significant densities of residential or commercial properties with footways where pedestrian movement is likely throughout the day Streets which are likely to form key pedestrian routes to nearby facilities

Additionally, streets which currently have 20mph speed limits were not considered for change as an assumption was made that a decision based on similar factors as the above had been made in the past to introduce the limit.

Streets which belong to new housing developments which are either under construction or recently completed were assumed to be given a 20mph speed limit. This is due to the streets likelihood of meeting the above criteria given how most modern housing development are designed applying the principles of Designing Streets.

Streets were then mapped out on GIS mapping software, highlighting streets which were proposed to be 20mph based on the review. It could then be observed in each settlement if there were any outlier streets which remained at a higher speed limit when surrounding by proposed 20mph streets. These streets were proposed to also be changed to a 20mph speed limit to ensure continuity of speed limits within areas.

A further review was subsequently undertaken to ensure consistency through an area and that there were no very short sections (less than approximately 400-600m) of any one speed limit. This review sought to identify any streets in an area with an abnormal speed limit compared to the surrounding streets. An individual street may have been assessed correctly as, for example, being retained as 30mph, however if all the surrounding streets have been assessed as changing to 20mph there is a danger that the inconsistency may not be adhered to by drivers or that the speed limit in the surrounding streets may not be adhered to. There would therefore be legitimate cause to reduce the speed limit of the street in question to 20mph.

3.3 Next Steps

The project has initially considered the streets within Midlothian that are currently subject to a speed limit of 20mph and 30mph. The next stages of the project are to review the speed limits of streets subject to 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph speed limits. This process has started and is ongoing at present.

4. Public Consultation

4.1 Introduction

Separately to the review exercise in accordance with the Council's standards, a public consultation exercise has been undertaken which has afforded members of the public the opportunity to comment on speed limits in their area and the speeds that vehicles travel through the area. Consideration has been given to a number of areas in Midlothian at the Council's request in order to determine if the impact of the public consultation exercise is sufficient to require alteration in the speed limit. Public consultation data has been reviewed for the requested areas identified below initially.

4.2 Old Pentland Road

From the A702/ Old Pentland Road junction the current speed limit is 40mph for approximately 230m before rising to 60mph until the A701 Straiton Road/ Old Pentland Road junction. It is proposed to implement a 30mph speed limit for the full duration of the public road.

From the public consultation there are requests to lower the speed limit to 30mph, include measures to enforce the speed limits, widen the footways to give additional protection to pedestrians and concerns around safety at the A702/ Old Pentland Road/ A703 junction. It is considered that the proposed implementation of a 30mph speed limit will meet the requests from residents for a reduced speed limit, and it is also considered that measures will be required in order to enforce this speed limit. The imposition of a 20mph limit would not reflect Council policy and in this location lack of consistency in implementation of the 20mph speed limit may reduce adherence elsewhere.

4.3 Howgate

The existing speed limit is 30mph through the village. From the public consultation the principal issues are in relation to speeding vehicles, wide carriageways and narrow footways. Based on the additional review the recommendation is that the speed limit within Howgate be reduced to 20mph, however measures will be required on approach to and within the village to enforce this.

Initial consideration should be given to the implementation of gateways at both sides of the village, staggered speed limit reductions on both approaches, physical measures to reduce the carriageway width and additional measures to create further points at which drivers are required to slow and give way to each other such as build outs.

4.4 Edgehead

Current speed limits through Edgehead are 30mph with a 20mph limit at the nursery. The principal issue reported through the public consultation exercise is that of speeding vehicles not adhering to the existing speed limits. Initial proposals based on policy identify the retention of the 30mph speed limit on Edgehead Road through the village, and the 20mph limit past the nursery, with lowering of speed limits on side streets. On review of national speed limit policy and in consideration of the public comments made it is proposed to reduce the speed limit on Edgehead Road to 20mph.

However this in its own right is unlikely to bring about significant change to vehicle speeds through the village. Substantial measures will be required to ensure drivers adhere to the speed limit. Gateway features at either end of the village with staggered speed limits approaching the built up area will be required. Physical measures will be required to reduce the width of the carriageway and widen the footways, as well as additional physical features throughout the village to reduce speeds. Without these it is unlikely that a 20mph speed limit will be adhered to based on reports that the 30mph speed limit is not observed by many drivers.

4.5 Millerhill Road

Millerhill Road is at present a combination of 30mph within Newton Village and 60mph roads. Reflecting the increased number of residences in the area and the continuous footway along the route proposals are that the speed limit be 30mph from the Millerhill Road/ Shawfair Spine Road junction to the A6106/ The Wisp/ Millerhill Road junction. In addition the speed limit between the Millerhill Road/ Shawfair Spine Road junction to the Sheriffhall Roundabout is proposed to have a 40mph speed limit as opposed to the 400m of 40mph speed limit south of the Millerhill Road/ Shawfair Spine Road junction transitioning to 60mph speed limit as far as the Sheriffhall Roundabout.

The public consultation exercise has called for a reduction in speed limits on this road with 40mph being requested due to development and increased traffic volumes. It is considered that the proposed speed limit combination of 30mph and 40mph for this road meets and exceeds the requests from the public, based on the Councils speed limit policy. Physical measures may be required in strategic locations to enforce this speed limit.

4.6 Pathhead

The present speed limit through Pathhead is 30mph, and outwith the village this increase to 60mph in all directions. In line with the Councils policy and with comments received through the public consultation exercise, it is proposed that the speed limit within the village be reduced to 20mph.

The main street through the village has a wide carriageway with high radius bends, and it is considered that substantial physical measures will be required in order to enforce a reduced speed limit. These are likely to include the reduction in width of the carriageway as well as further measures in certain locations to require drivers to adhere to the speed limit.

Public consultation comments have highlighted the A68/ B6367/ Hill Road junction as being problematic and this junction is incorporated in the proposed reduced speed limit.

4.7 Dewarton

At present Dewarton has a speed limit of 30mph on the single street through the village. The speed limit rises to 60mph outwith the village. In line with the Councils speed limit policy it was proposed to retain the existing 30mph speed limit, however taking comments from the public consultation into account it is proposed to reduce the speed limit to 20mph through the village. In order to enforce this it is likely that speed reduction measures will be required due to the width of the existing carriageway and the relatively small nature of the village. There are a number of methods of achieving this, but physical constraints will be necessary all the way through the village.

4.8 Oxenfoord Equestrian Centre

The B6372 passes the Oxenfoord Equestrian Centre. This road has a current speed limit of 60mph placing it outwith the extent of this current review. However it has been requested due to the high number of public comments that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit. The nature of the street being rural and lying outwith a settlement with only the equestrian centre fronting the carriageway at this point means that the street does not meet the criteria for a reduced speed limit to 20mph as requested through the public consultation exercise.

The public consultation exercise highlights the presence of horses crossing the carriageway between the stables and a field as the justification for a reduced speed limit. However this does not fall within the Councils speed limit policy. Implementing a reduced speed limit at this location could set precedent that every equestrian centre could request a similar policy and potentially this could extend to every instance where animals are required to cross a carriageway. It is likely that horses cross the carriageway for cumulatively no more than a few minutes of the day meaning that the majority of other road users would encounter a reduced speed limit with no other activity on the carriageway. This has the potential to reduce the effectiveness of other reduced speed limits. It is proposed that the speed limit be retained at 60mph. The potential for the installation of warning signs for horses crossing should be investigated.

4.9 Roslin

Existing speed limits have been based on GIS information supplied. The speed limit on the B7003 Penicuik Road has been lowered from 40mph to 30mph following the construction of new housing on the western edge of the village. The speed limit between Kilburn Wood Drive and the B7003/ B7006 junction is now 30mph. Reviewing this street in the context of the Councils policy suggests that this should remain a 30mph street. There is no direct frontage to it, no community facilities and nothing on the south side of the carriageway.

The B7006 Penicuik Road extending west from the B7006/ B7003 junction currently has a speed limit of 30mph which continues on the B7006 Main Street. Following review of this against the Councils policy and taking into account comments from the public consultation which have requested a reduced speed limit, it is proposed that the speed limit on the B7006 Main Street and Penicuik Road be reduced to 20mph.

It is suggested that physical measures to enforce this reduced speed limit will be required along these streets.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the report highlights the results of the review of the existing 20mph and 30mph speed limits. The full results of the assessment are contained in the GIS files which are provided to the Council.

5.2 Results of the 20mph and 30mph Review

The results of the assessment have been presented in both a tabular form and on GIS mapping. The tabular form presents each street and how they were reviewed in terms of the categories as set out above. The GIS mapping has assigned a colour to each speed limit so that an overview of the proposed speed limits can be observed. Furthermore, an additional map has been produced which highlights streets whose speed limit is proposed to change.

Of all the streets which were reviewed, there are approximately 850 instances of streets currently under a 30mph speed limit which are proposed to be reduced to a 20mph speed limit. Meanwhile there are approximately 70 instances of streets which are currently under a 30mph speed limit which are proposed to remain at a 30mph speed limit.

The results are presented below according to Council Wards in order to highlight the changes that are proposed on a local basis. In addition a focus has been provided around the Sherrifhall roundabout. It should be noted that work is still in progress in this area and the proposed speed limits have the potential for further revision.

Figures contained within the results show the existing speed limits, and the proposed changes based on the assessment and review. The results figures only highlight the streets that have been reviewed, they do not show the wider street network with Midlothian which has not been subject to the 20mph and 30mph review.

5.3 Bonnyrigg Ward

Figure 1, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Bonnyrigg Ward, while Figure 2 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.



Figure 1. Bonnyrigg Existing Speed Limits

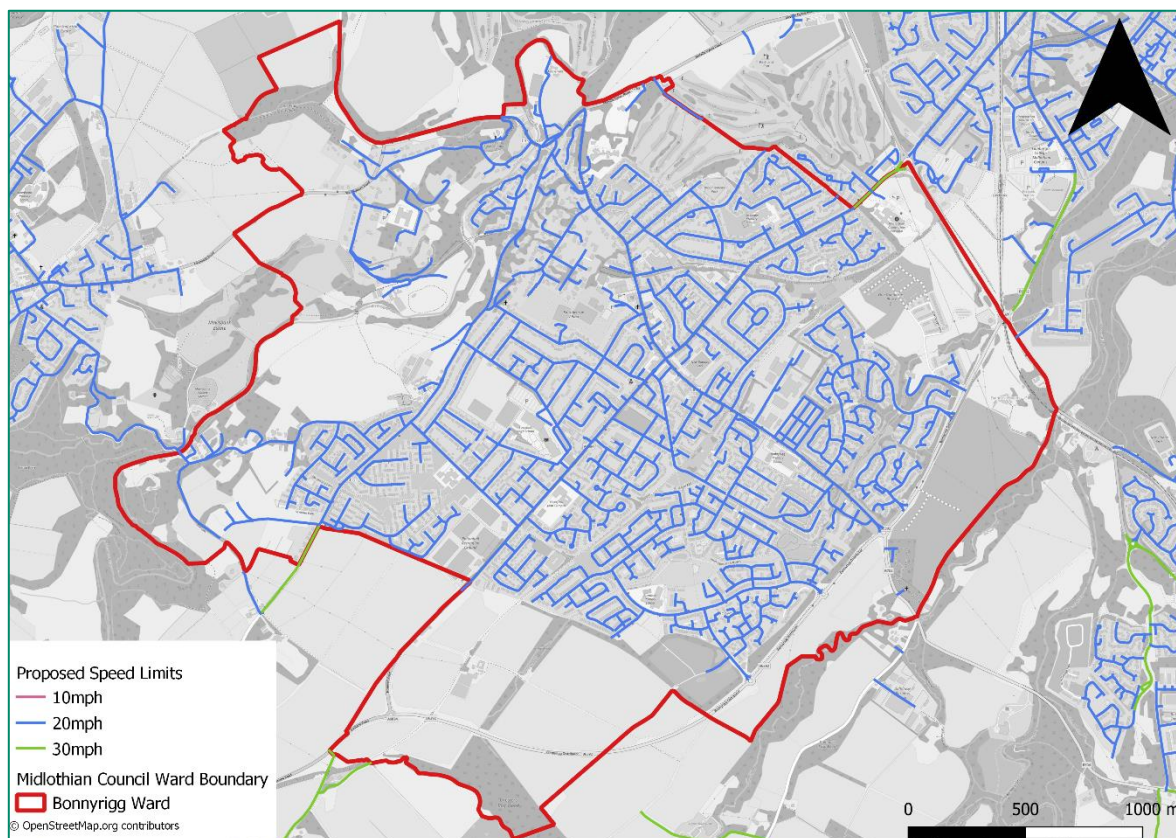


Figure 2. Bonnyrigg Proposed Speed Limits

5.4 Dalkeith Ward

Figure 3, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Dalkeith Ward, while Figure 4 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

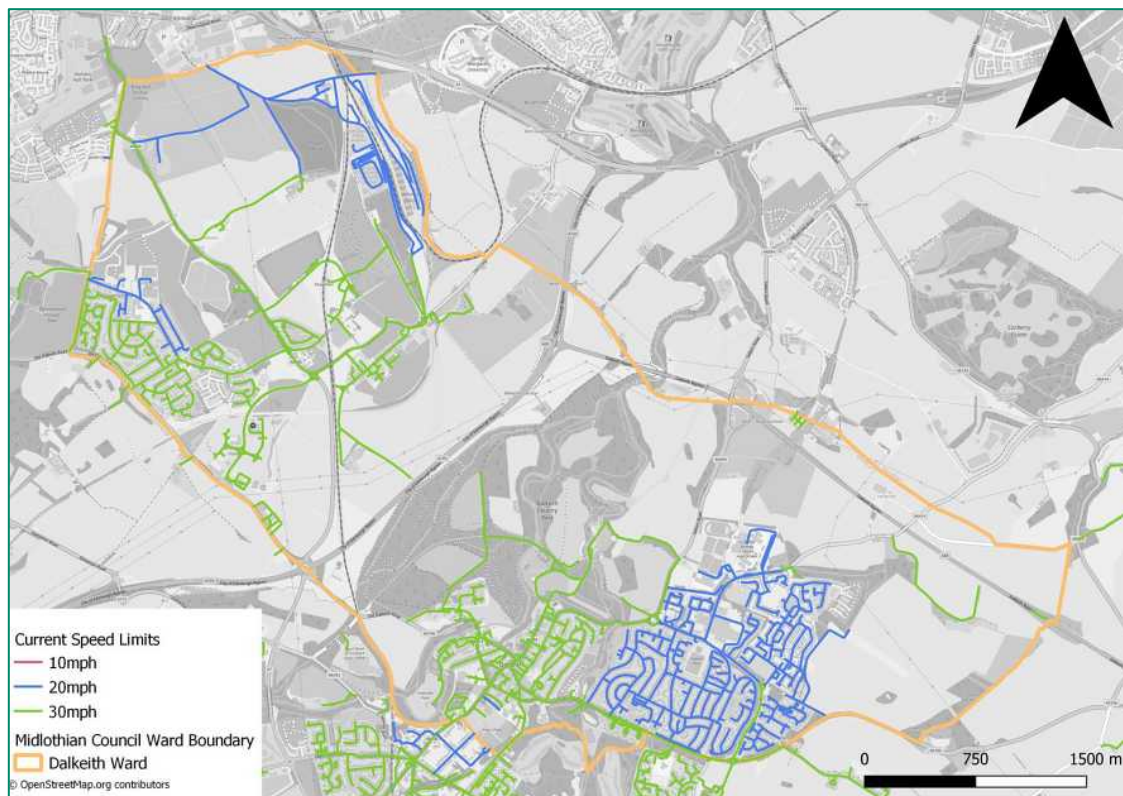


Figure 3. Dalkeith Existing Speed Limits

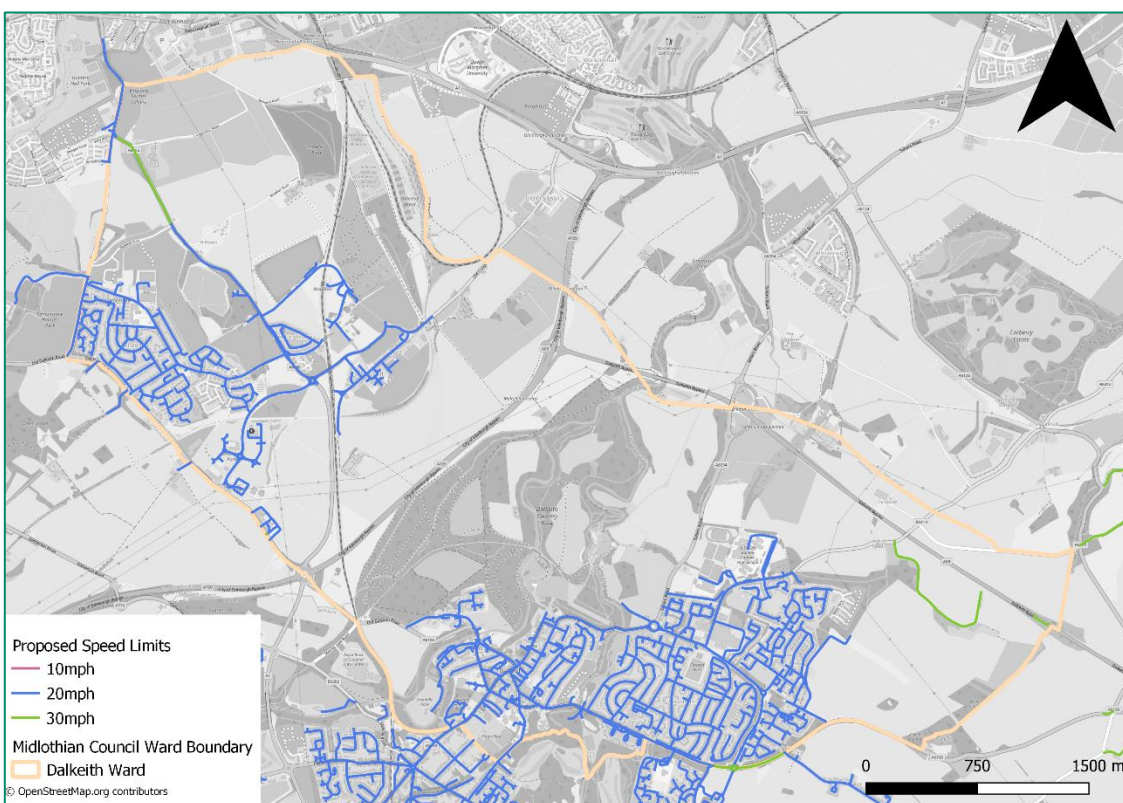


Figure 4. Dalkeith Proposed Speed limits

5.5 Midlothian East Ward

Figure 5, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Midlothian East Ward, while Figure 6 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.



Figure 5. Midlothian East Ward Current Speed Limits

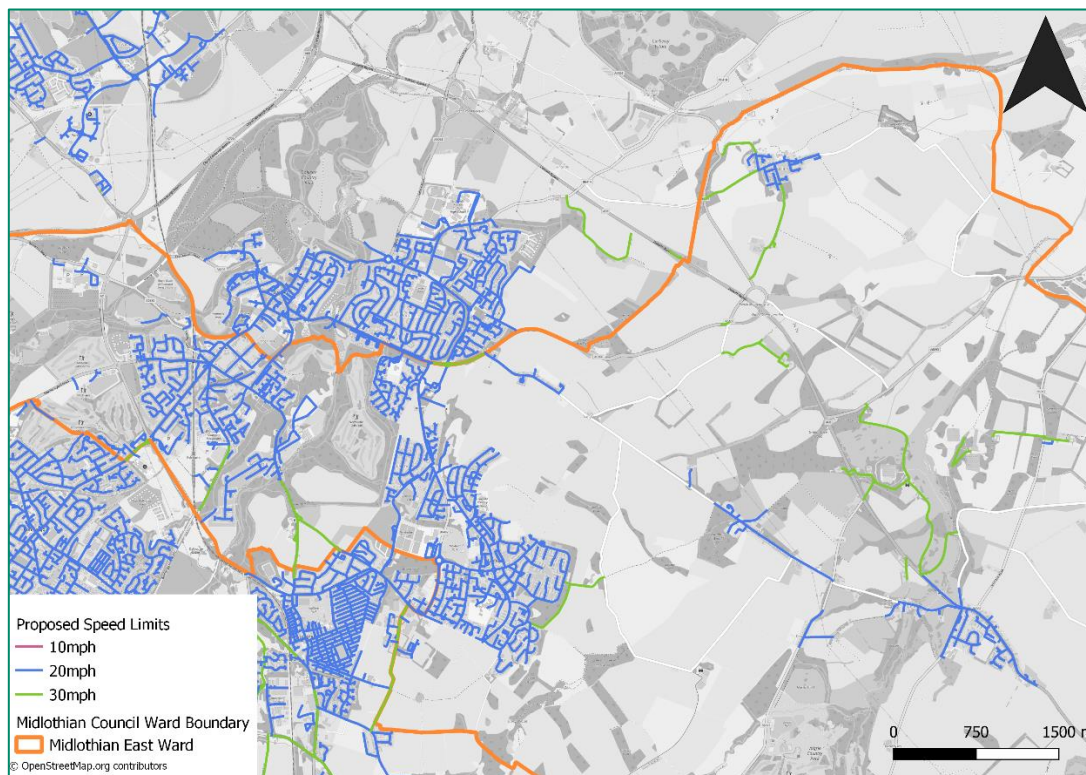


Figure 6. Midlothian East Ward Proposed Speed Limits

5.6 Midlothian South Ward

Figure 7, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Midlothian South Ward, while Figure 8 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

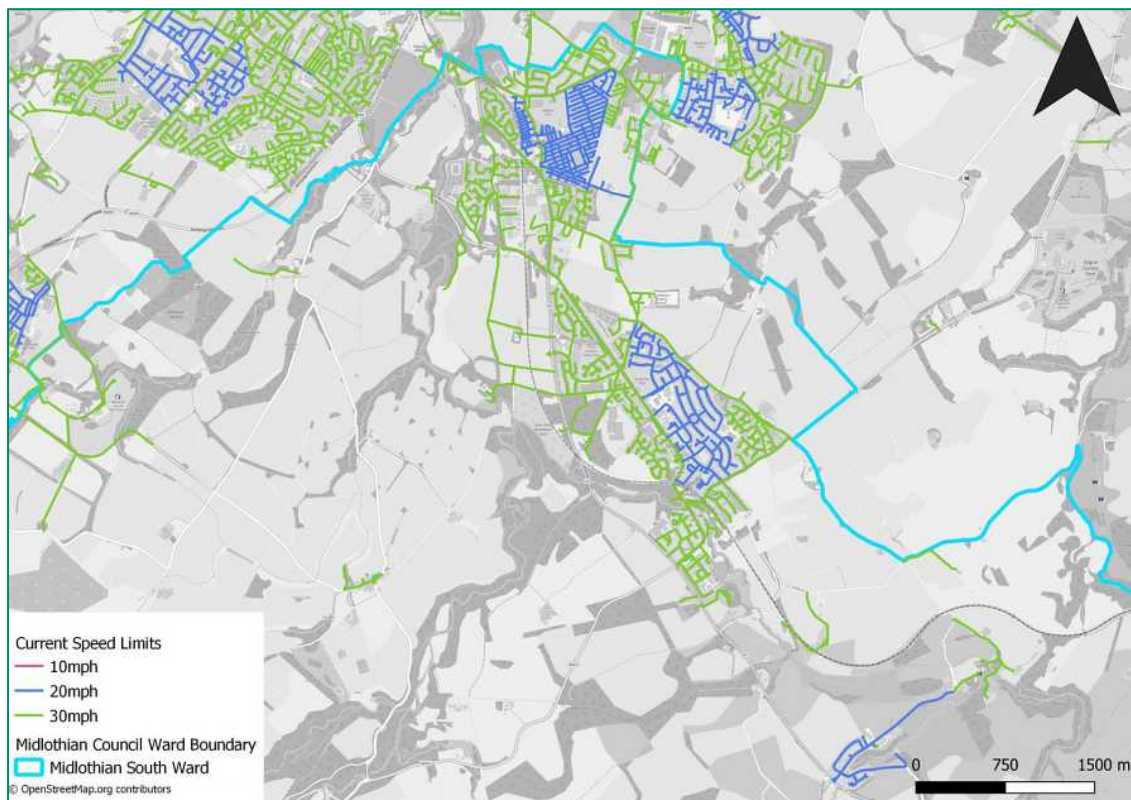


Figure 7. Midlothian South Ward Existing Speed Limits

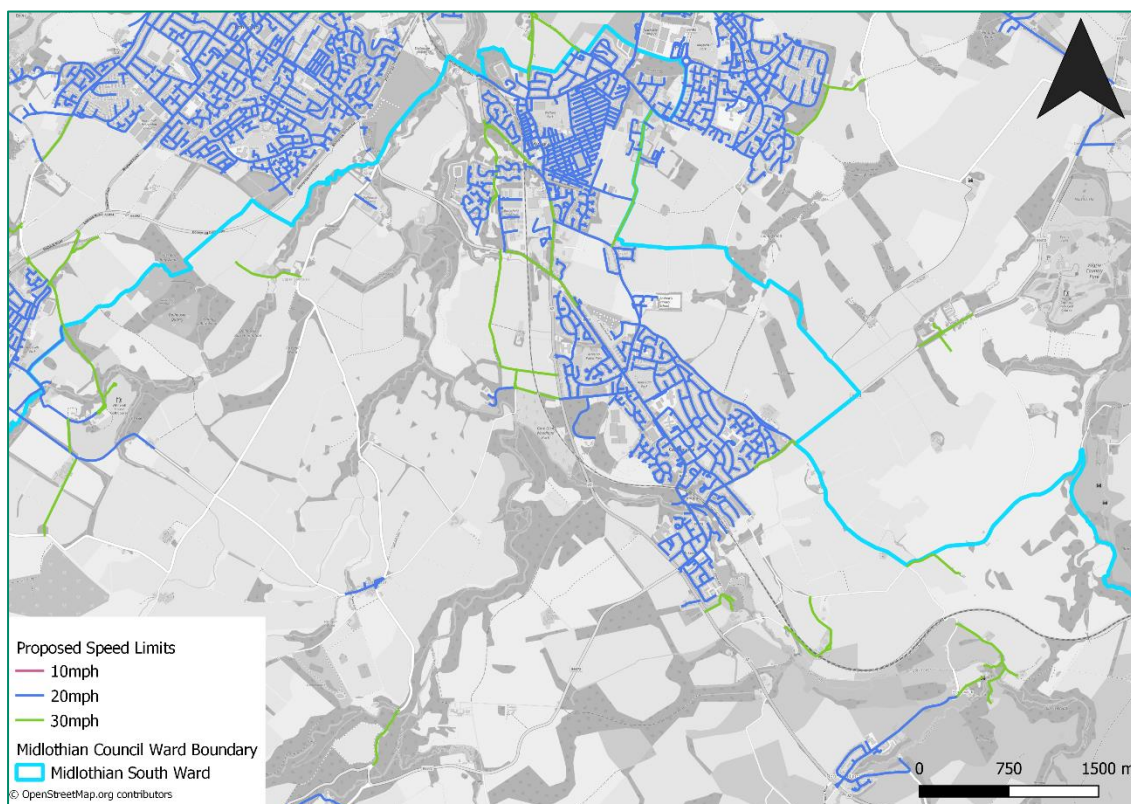


Figure 8. Midlothian South Ward Proposed Speed Limits

5.7 Midlothian West Ward

Figure 9, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Midlothian West Ward, while Figure 10 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

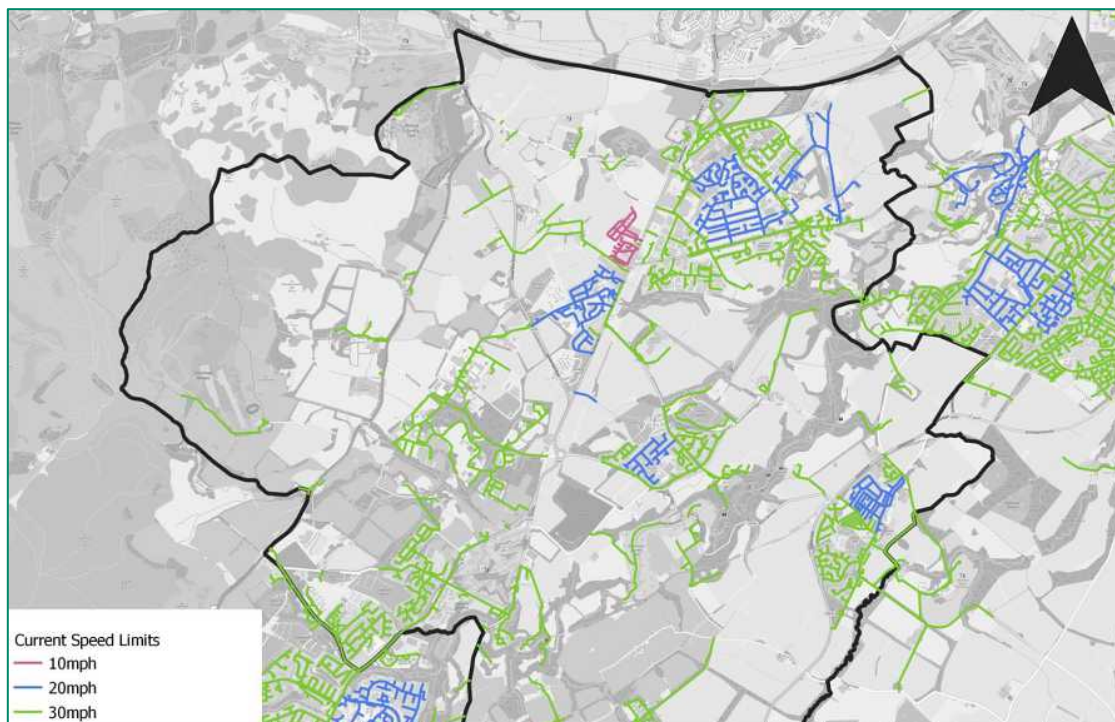


Figure 9. Midlothian West Current Speed Limits

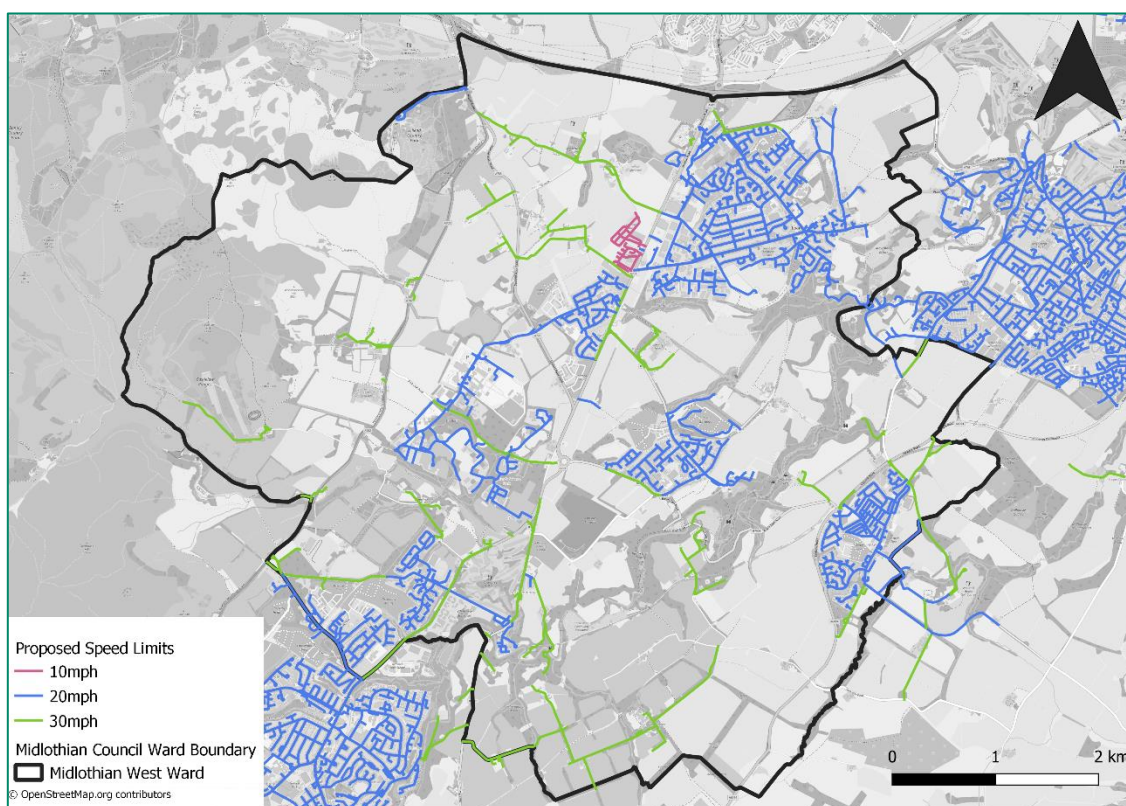


Figure 10. Midlothian West Proposed Speed Limits

5.8 Penicuik Ward

Figure 11, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Penicuik Ward, while Figure 12 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

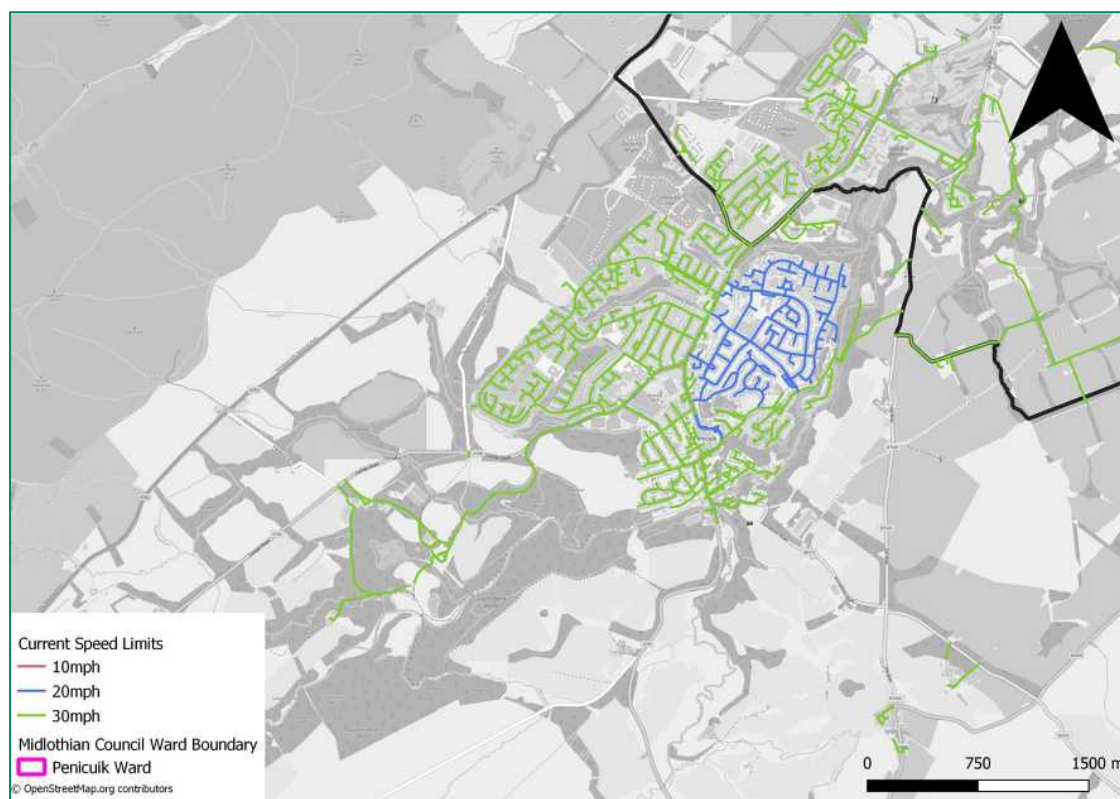


Figure 11. Penicuik Ward Existing Speed Limit

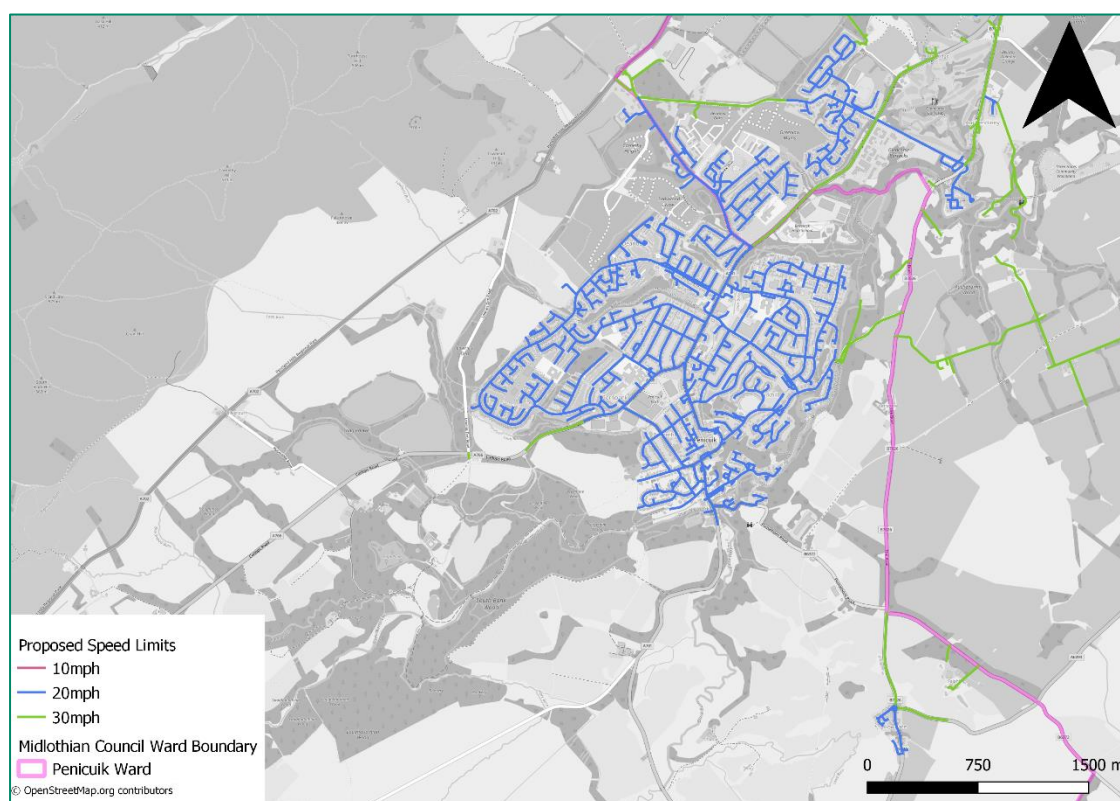


Figure 12. Penicuik Ward Proposed Speed Limit

5.9 Dalkeith with Shawsfair and Millerhill

Figure 13, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Dalkeith, Shawsfair and Millerhill area, while Figure 14 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

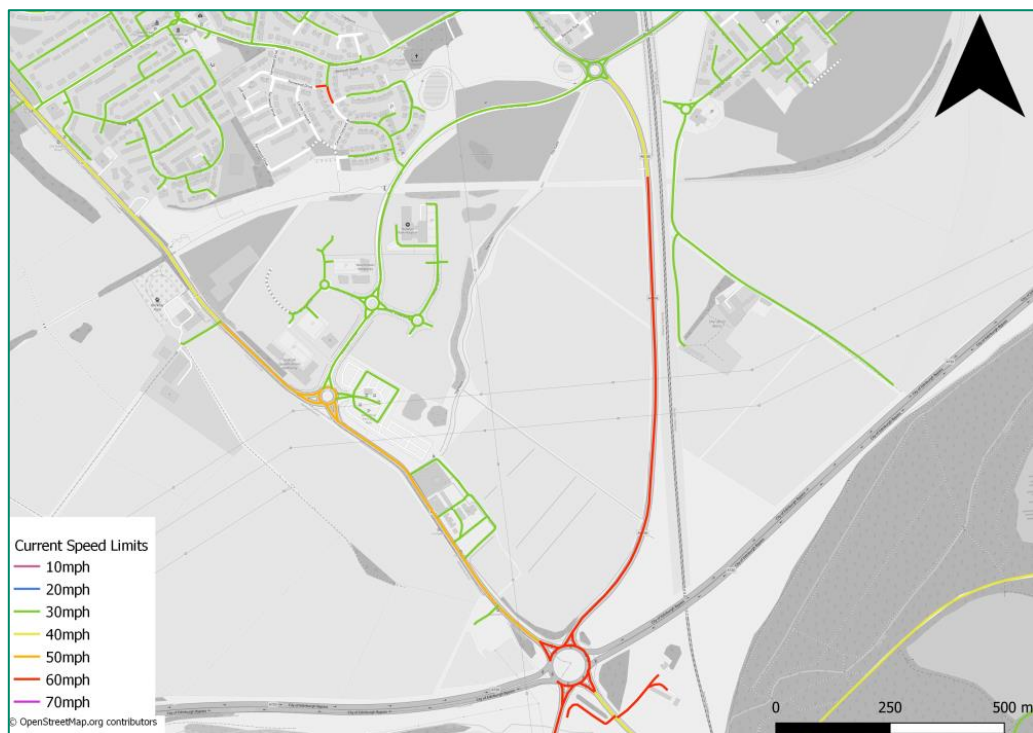


Figure 13. Dalkeith with Shawsfair and Millerhill Existing Speed Limit

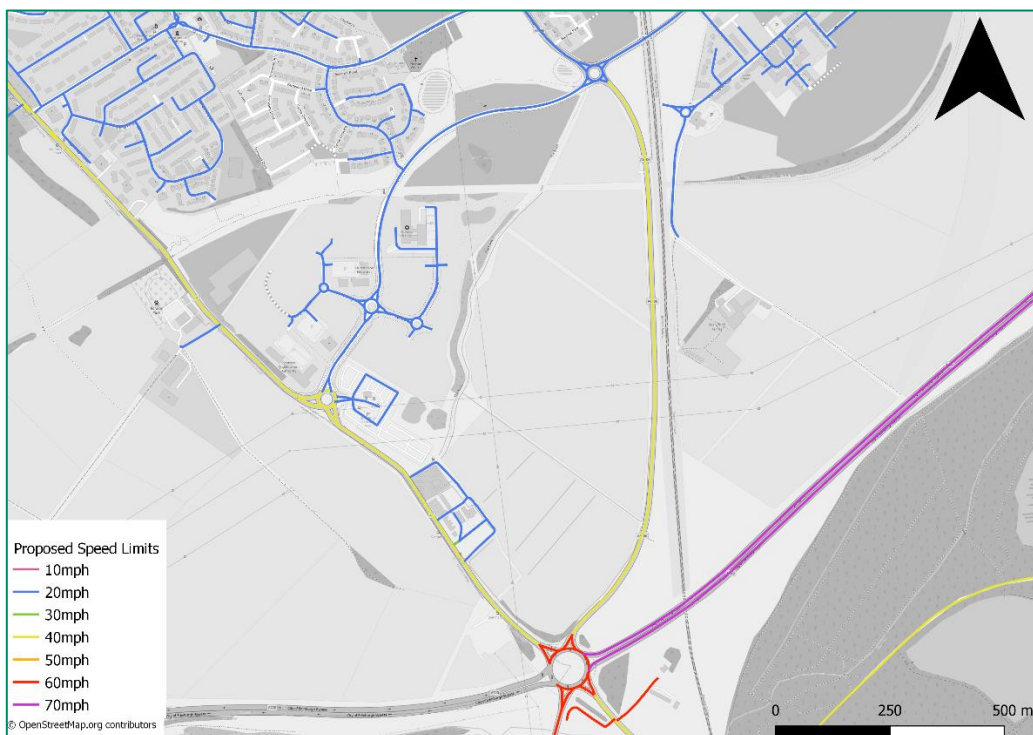


Figure 14. Dalkeith with Shawsfair and Millerhill Proposed Speed Limit

6. Summary

6.1 Introduction

Midlothian Council has commissioned AECOM to carry out a review of speed limits within its area. This report highlights the methodology used in carrying out the first stages of this study, reviewing the current 20mph and 30mph zones.

6.2 Methodology

The methodology has employed use of Midlothian Councils policy for the implementation of speed limits. Each individual street currently subject to a 30mph speed limit has been assessed according to this policy in order to determine whether there is a requirement to propose a change to this policy. The results have been compiled into a GIS file following the review.

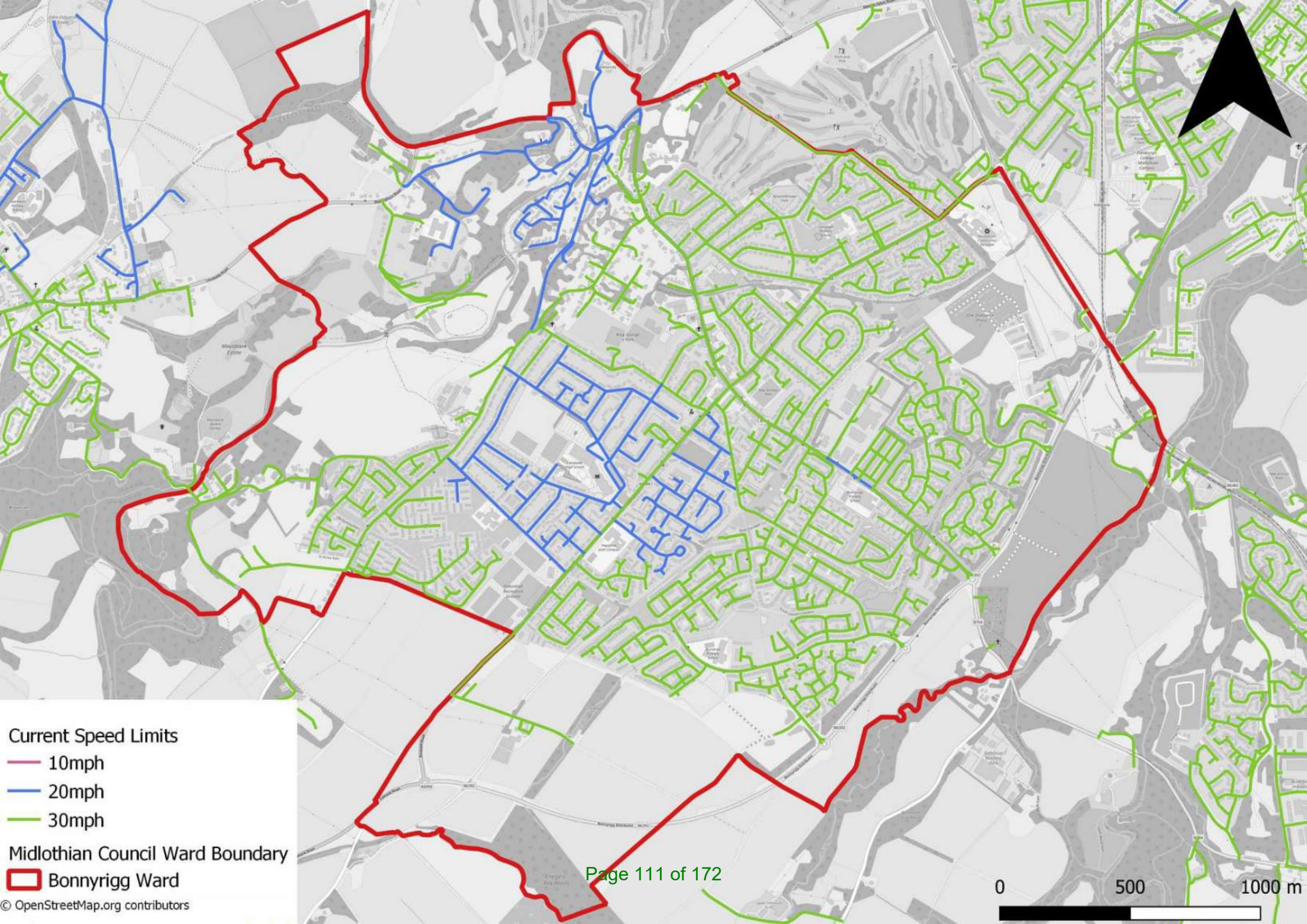
6.3 Results

A number of streets within Midlothian have been identified as being suitable for a proposed change in speed limit. These results are highlighted in this report and provided in detail to the Council.

6.4 Summary and Next Steps

The study has considered the streets subject to an existing 20mph and 30mph speed limit. The next stages of the project will be to continue the review with 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph streets according to the Councils policy.

Appendix A – Current and Proposed Speed Limit Plans



Current Speed Limits

10mph

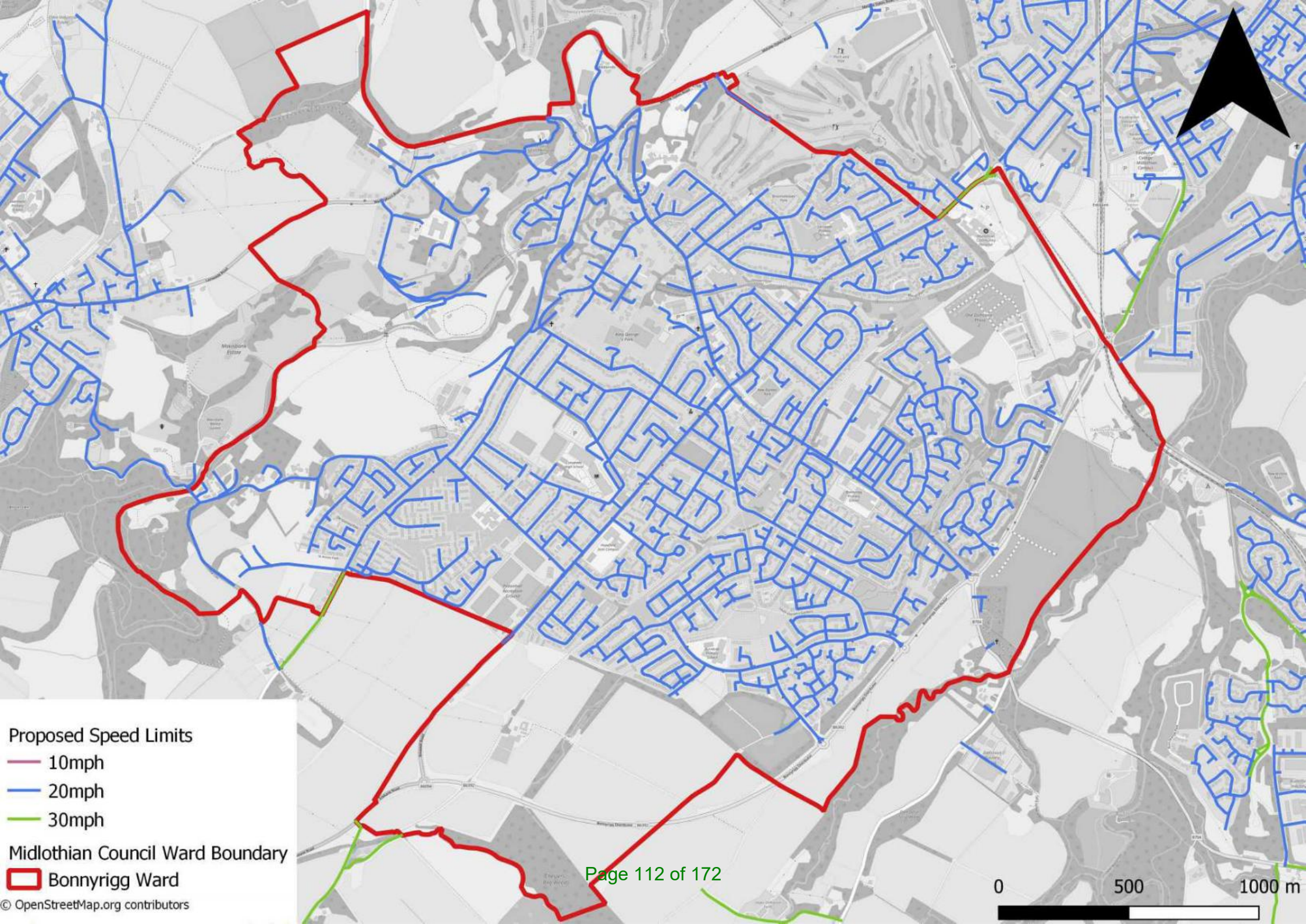
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Bonnyrigg Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Bonnyrigg Ward

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Current Speed Limits

- 10mph
- 20mph
- 30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

- Dalkeith Ward



Proposed Speed Limits

- 10mph
- 20mph
- 30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

- Dalkeith Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian East Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian East Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian South Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

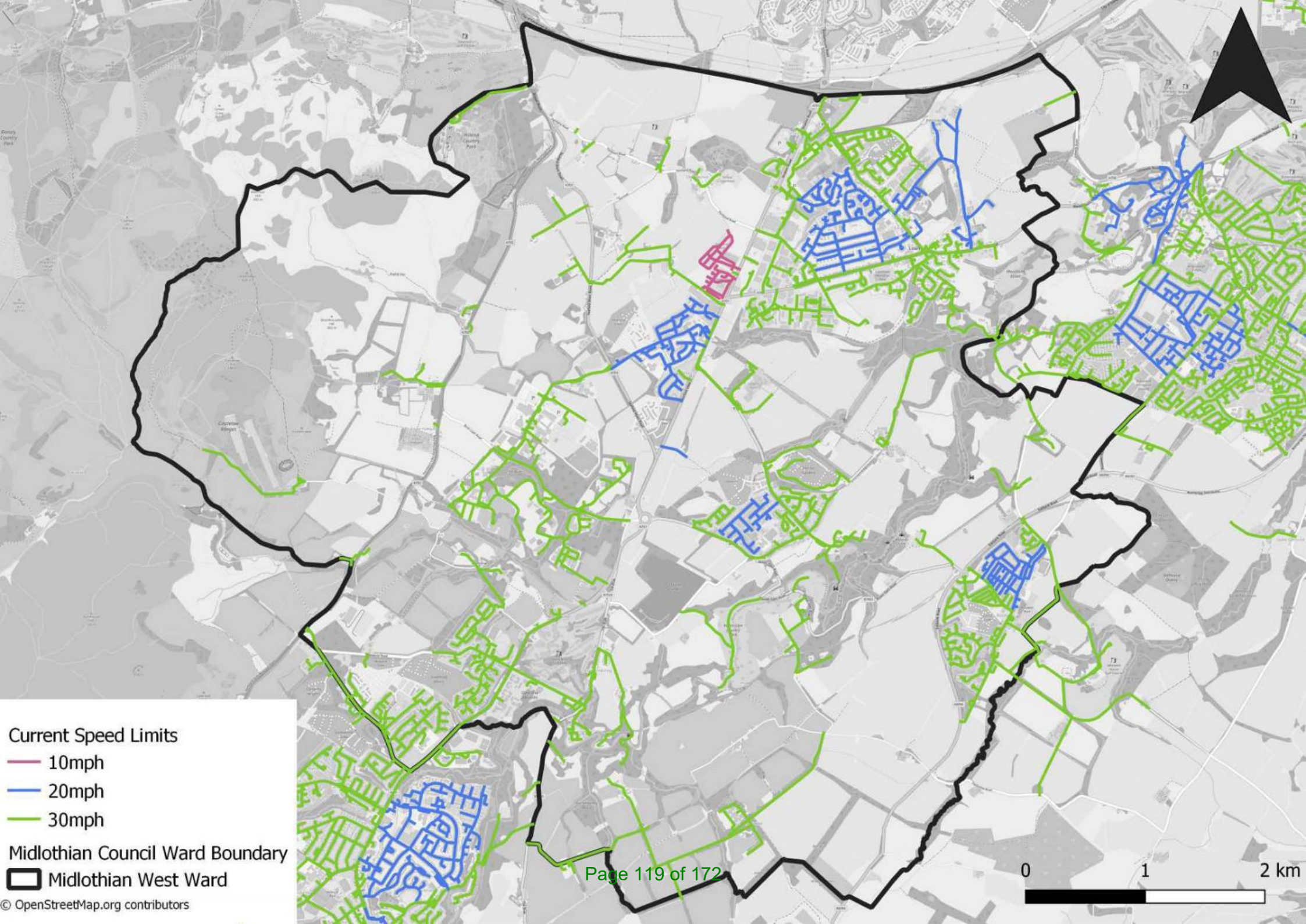
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian South Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

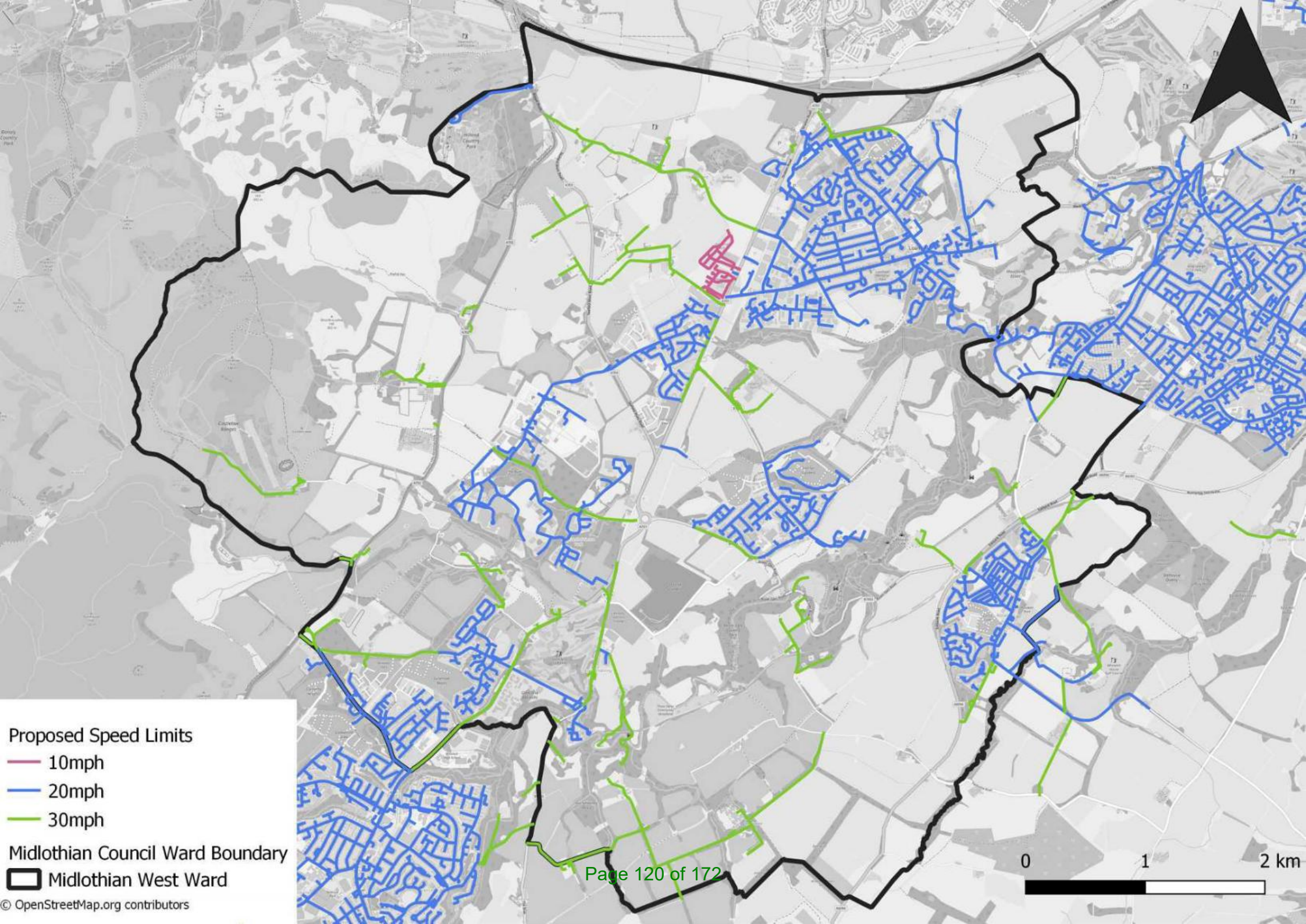
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian West Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian West Ward

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Current Speed Limits

- 10mph
- 20mph
- 30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

- Penicuik Ward



Proposed Speed Limits

- 10mph
- 20mph
- 30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

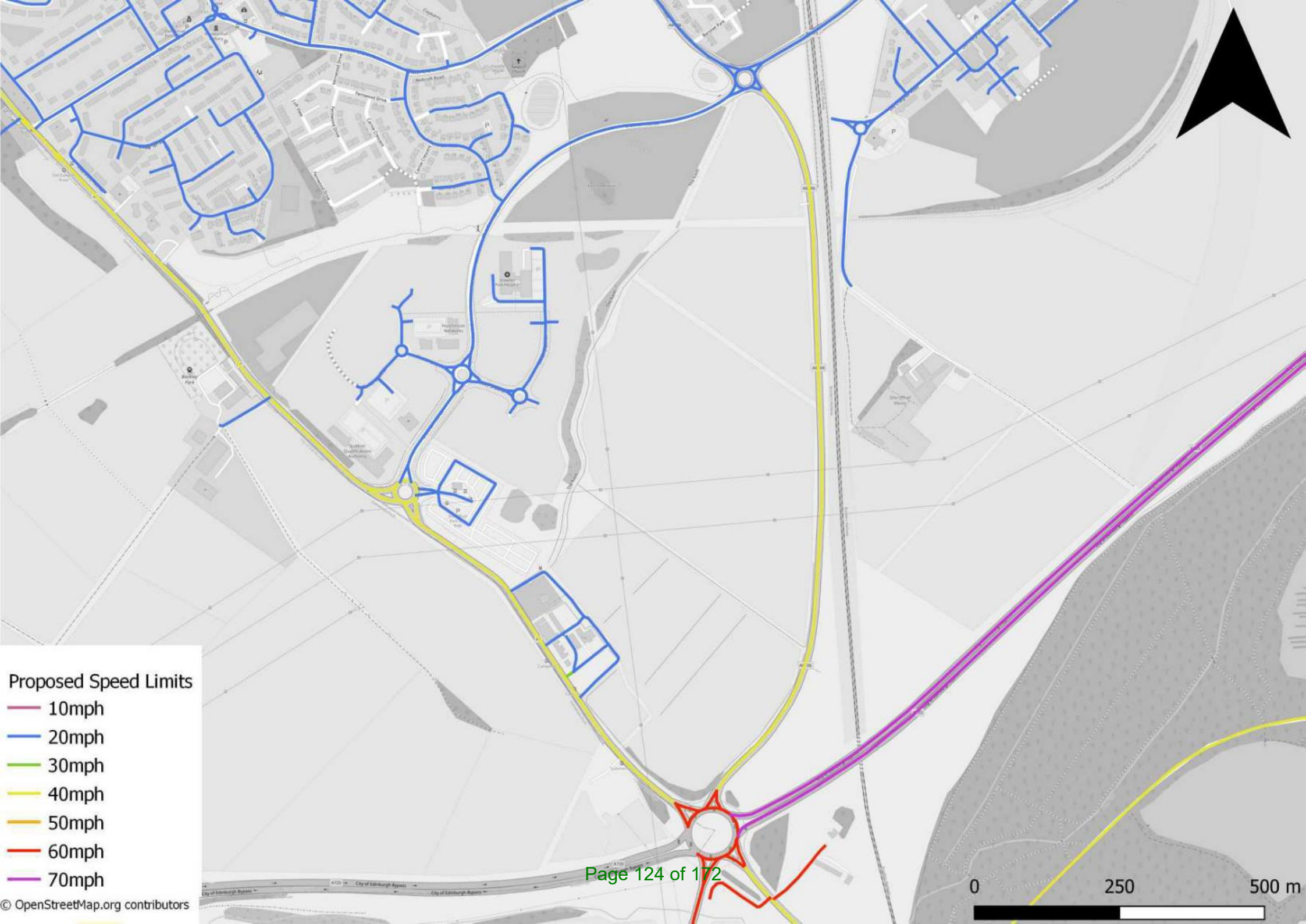
- Penicuik Ward

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Current Speed Limits

- 10mph
- 20mph
- 30mph
- 40mph
- 50mph
- 60mph
- 70mph



- Proposed Speed Limits
- 10mph
 - 20mph
 - 30mph
 - 40mph
 - 50mph
 - 60mph
 - 70mph

Midlothian 20mph Speed Limit Review

Midlothian Council

13 April 2023

Quality information

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1. Background and Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Midlothian Council has commissioned AECOM to undertake a review of speed limits across the Council area with a view to adjusting speed limits to 20mph in appropriate locations. Following this initial review the Council has requested that the study extend to a review of other streets within the Councils area which are currently subject to a speed limit of 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph.

1.2 Background

In response to Transport Scotland's review of their approach to the setting of speed limits across Scotland, Midlothian Council has reviewed its own policy for the setting of speed limits and the criteria that should apply to different speed limits. The purpose of this was to achieve clarity in the setting of appropriate speed limits for different setting and so that communities have a greater understanding of what speed limits should apply in their area.

Progressing with this work the Council is now moving to implementing this new policy through a review of current speed limits to establish if there is a requirement to alter speed limits throughout the Council area.

2. Policy and Guidance

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a brief summary of the relevant policy and guidance documents which have been used to inform this study.

2.2 National Transport Strategy 2

National Transport Strategy 2 (NTS2) was published in 2020 and sets out the vision for Scotland's transport system over the next 20 years. The vision of the strategy is to have a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping to deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.

Accompanying NTS2 is the NTS2 Delivery Plan which sets out actions for how the vision of NTS2 will be delivered, providing an overview for transport investment and projects. Key to the Midlothian Speed Limit Review is the priority of the Delivery Plan to improve safety by reducing road casualties and delivering the outcomes of Scotland's Road Safety Framework.

To deliver safer roads, the Plan states that Transport Scotland will ensure all appropriate roads in built up areas will have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025 as it seeks to reduce perceptions of road danger, encourage people to walk, wheel and cycle, and create more pleasant street and neighbourhoods by providing a more equitable balance between different road users and will contribute to the implementation of the safe system.

2.3 Midlothian Council Speed Policy

Midlothian Council have undertaken a road safety and hierarchy review which subsequently led to the production of a Speed Policy document which sets out the Council's objectives, guidance which informs the policies and how they would be implemented. The document states that underlying principles of Midlothian Council's speed limit policy include:

- Determining the function of the road and its characteristics in terms of movement and place when examining and considering the speed limit
- The needs of all road users to be fully taken into account when considering the implications of speed limits.

Section 4.2 states that 20mph street within towns are mostly residential, or see high pedestrian and cyclist movements and tend to be areas where motor vehicle movement is not deemed the primary function. The policy sets out the following guidance on characteristics for the application of 20mph speed limits:

- A clearly defined core, such as a central shopping area of community facility;
- Several facilities generating active travel movements;
- Notable development depth;
- Almost continuous frontage;
- Numerous junctions; and
- Significant pedestrian activity throughout the day.

3. Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides an outline of the methodology that has been employed in reviewing the speed limits currently in use in Midlothian and determining whether or not these should be revised.

3.2 Methodology Applied

In order to undertake the review of 20mph and 30mph speed limits, a list of approximately 1,700 streets or sections of streets was provided from Midlothian Council area, including identification for which town, village or other settlement they were located in. This was accompanied by GIS data which included information on existing speed limits on each of the streets provided. The settlements which were reviewed are:

- Bonnyrigg
- Dalkeith
- Danderhall
- Gorebridge
- Howgate
- Lasswade
- Loanhead
- Newtongrange
- Pathhead
- Penicuik
- Rosewell
- Roslin

Using the list provided, every street was assessed, using desktop tools, against the criteria for a 20mph street as set out in the Midlothian Council Speed Policy Document using a simple 'Yes' or 'No' system. A street would be marked with a 'Yes' next to a particular criterion if it was judged to match it and vice versa for 'No'. Greater detail on how each of these criteria was applied is set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Application of Midlothian 20mph Criteria

Criteria	Contributing Factors
A clearly defined core, such as a central shopping area of community facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On or leading to an area with a high concentration of facilities relative to the size of the area (e.g. in a small residential setting, a community centre was considered "core") • Near an area which would attract a high number of travel movements (e.g. a group of shops or bus stops) • On or leading to an area considered central to a settlement, where movements are likely to congregate (e.g. main thoroughfares through settlements) • Likely to incorporate schools, high streets, community centres, sports centres and other community facilities
Several facilities generating active travel movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On corridors likely to be a focal point of active travel movements (e.g. leading to schools) • On or near routes with dedicated active travel facilities such as cycle lanes
Notable development depth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of significant density of residences or commercial properties likely to attract travel movements
Almost continuous frontage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streets which continuously have properties facing onto them and are therefore likely to experience travel movements associated with them

Criteria	Contributing Factors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets with significant numbers of residential driveways accessed from them
Numerous junctions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets with numerous points of conflicting traffic movements where slower speeds would allow these movements to be undertaken more safely
Significant pedestrian activity throughout the day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Streets with significant densities of residential or commercial properties with footways where pedestrian movement is likely throughout the day Streets which are likely to form key pedestrian routes to nearby facilities

Additionally, streets which currently have 20mph speed limits were not considered for change as an assumption was made that a decision based on similar factors as the above had been made in the past to introduce the limit.

Streets which belong to new housing developments which are either under construction or recently completed were assumed to be given a 20mph speed limit. This is due to the streets likelihood of meeting the above criteria given how most modern housing development are designed applying the principles of Designing Streets.

Streets were then mapped out on GIS mapping software, highlighting streets which were proposed to be 20mph based on the review. It could then be observed in each settlement if there were any outlier streets which remained at a higher speed limit when surrounding by proposed 20mph streets. These streets were proposed to also be changed to a 20mph speed limit to ensure continuity of speed limits within areas.

A further review was subsequently undertaken to ensure consistency through an area and that there were no very short sections (less than approximately 400-600m) of any one speed limit. This review sought to identify any streets in an area with an abnormal speed limit compared to the surrounding streets. An individual street may have been assessed correctly as, for example, being retained as 30mph, however if all the surrounding streets have been assessed as changing to 20mph there is a danger that the inconsistency may not be adhered to by drivers or that the speed limit in the surrounding streets may not be adhered to. There would therefore be legitimate cause to reduce the speed limit of the street in question to 20mph.

3.3 Next Steps

The project has initially considered the streets within Midlothian that are currently subject to a speed limit of 20mph and 30mph. The next stages of the project are to review the speed limits of streets subject to 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph speed limits. This process has started and is ongoing at present.

4. Public Consultation

4.1 Introduction

Separately to the review exercise in accordance with the Council's standards, a public consultation exercise has been undertaken which has afforded members of the public the opportunity to comment on speed limits in their area and the speeds that vehicles travel through the area. Consideration has been given to a number of areas in Midlothian at the Council's request in order to determine if the impact of the public consultation exercise is sufficient to require alteration in the speed limit. Public consultation data has been reviewed for the requested areas identified below initially.

4.2 Old Pentland Road

From the A702/ Old Pentland Road junction the current speed limit is 40mph for approximately 230m before rising to 60mph until the A701 Straiton Road/ Old Pentland Road junction. It is proposed to implement a 30mph speed limit for the full duration of the public road.

From the public consultation there are requests to lower the speed limit to 30mph, include measures to enforce the speed limits, widen the footways to give additional protection to pedestrians and concerns around safety at the A702/ Old Pentland Road/ A703 junction. It is considered that the proposed implementation of a 30mph speed limit will meet the requests from residents for a reduced speed limit, and it is also considered that measures will be required in order to enforce this speed limit. The imposition of a 20mph limit would not reflect Council policy and in this location lack of consistency in implementation of the 20mph speed limit may reduce adherence elsewhere.

4.3 Howgate

The existing speed limit is 30mph through the village. From the public consultation the principal issues are in relation to speeding vehicles, wide carriageways and narrow footways. Based on the additional review the recommendation is that the speed limit within Howgate be reduced to 20mph, however measures will be required on approach to and within the village to enforce this.

Initial consideration should be given to the implementation of gateways at both sides of the village, staggered speed limit reductions on both approaches, physical measures to reduce the carriageway width and additional measures to create further points at which drivers are required to slow and give way to each other such as build outs.

4.4 Edgehead

Current speed limits through Edgehead are 30mph with a 20mph limit at the nursery. The principal issue reported through the public consultation exercise is that of speeding vehicles not adhering to the existing speed limits. Initial proposals based on policy identify the retention of the 30mph speed limit on Edgehead Road through the village, and the 20mph limit past the nursery, with lowering of speed limits on side streets. On review of national speed limit policy and in consideration of the public comments made it is proposed to reduce the speed limit on Edgehead Road to 20mph.

However this in its own right is unlikely to bring about significant change to vehicle speeds through the village. Substantial measures will be required to ensure drivers adhere to the speed limit. Gateway features at either end of the village with staggered speed limits approaching the built up area will be required. Physical measures will be required to reduce the width of the carriageway and widen the footways, as well as additional physical features throughout the village to reduce speeds. Without these it is unlikely that a 20mph speed limit will be adhered to based on reports that the 30mph speed limit is not observed by many drivers.

4.5 Millerhill Road

Millerhill Road is at present a combination of 30mph within Newton Village and 60mph roads. Reflecting the increased number of residences in the area and the continuous footway along the route proposals are that the speed limit be 30mph from the Millerhill Road/ Shawfair Spine Road junction to the A6106/ The Wisp/ Millerhill Road junction. In addition the speed limit between the Millerhill Road/ Shawfair Spine Road junction to the Sheriffhall Roundabout is proposed to have a 40mph speed limit as opposed to the 400m of 40mph speed limit south of the Millerhill Road/ Shawfair Spine Road junction transitioning to 60mph speed limit as far as the Sheriffhall Roundabout.

The public consultation exercise has called for a reduction in speed limits on this road with 40mph being requested due to development and increased traffic volumes. It is considered that the proposed speed limit combination of 30mph and 40mph for this road meets and exceeds the requests from the public, based on the Councils speed limit policy. Physical measures may be required in strategic locations to enforce this speed limit.

4.6 Pathhead

The present speed limit through Pathhead is 30mph, and outwith the village this increase to 60mph in all directions. In line with the Councils policy and with comments received through the public consultation exercise, it is proposed that the speed limit within the village be reduced to 20mph.

The main street through the village has a wide carriageway with high radius bends, and it is considered that substantial physical measures will be required in order to enforce a reduced speed limit. These are likely to include the reduction in width of the carriageway as well as further measures in certain locations to require drivers to adhere to the speed limit.

Public consultation comments have highlighted the A68/ B6367/ Hill Road junction as being problematic and this junction is incorporated in the proposed reduced speed limit.

4.7 Dewarton

At present Dewarton has a speed limit of 30mph on the single street through the village. The speed limit rises to 60mph outwith the village. In line with the Councils speed limit policy it was proposed to retain the existing 30mph speed limit, however taking comments from the public consultation into account it is proposed to reduce the speed limit to 20mph through the village. In order to enforce this it is likely that speed reduction measures will be required due to the width of the existing carriageway and the relatively small nature of the village. There are a number of methods of achieving this, but physical constraints will be necessary all the way through the village.

4.8 Oxenfoord Equestrian Centre

The B6372 passes the Oxenfoord Equestrian Centre. This road has a current speed limit of 60mph placing it outwith the extent of this current review. However it has been requested due to the high number of public comments that consideration be given to reducing the speed limit. The nature of the street being rural and lying outwith a settlement with only the equestrian centre fronting the carriageway at this point means that the street does not meet the criteria for a reduced speed limit to 20mph as requested through the public consultation exercise.

The public consultation exercise highlights the presence of horses crossing the carriageway between the stables and a field as the justification for a reduced speed limit. However this does not fall within the Councils speed limit policy. Implementing a reduced speed limit at this location could set precedent that every equestrian centre could request a similar policy and potentially this could extend to every instance where animals are required to cross a carriageway. It is likely that horses cross the carriageway for cumulatively no more than a few minutes of the day meaning that the majority of other road users would encounter a reduced speed limit with no other activity on the carriageway. This has the potential to reduce the effectiveness of other reduced speed limits. It is proposed that the speed limit be retained at 60mph. The potential for the installation of warning signs for horses crossing should be investigated.

4.9 Roslin

Existing speed limits have been based on GIS information supplied. The speed limit on the B7003 Penicuik Road has been lowered from 40mph to 30mph following the construction of new housing on the western edge of the village. The speed limit between Kilburn Wood Drive and the B7003/ B7006 junction is now 30mph. Reviewing this street in the context of the Councils policy suggests that this should remain a 30mph street. There is no direct frontage to it, no community facilities and nothing on the south side of the carriageway.

The B7006 Penicuik Road extending west from the B7006/ B7003 junction currently has a speed limit of 30mph which continues on the B7006 Main Street. Following review of this against the Councils policy and taking into account comments from the public consultation which have requested a reduced speed limit, it is proposed that the speed limit on the B7006 Main Street and Penicuik Road be reduced to 20mph.

It is suggested that physical measures to enforce this reduced speed limit will be required along these streets.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the report highlights the results of the review of the existing 20mph and 30mph speed limits. The full results of the assessment are contained in the GIS files which are provided to the Council.

5.2 Results of the 20mph and 30mph Review

The results of the assessment have been presented in both a tabular form and on GIS mapping. The tabular form presents each street and how they were reviewed in terms of the categories as set out above. The GIS mapping has assigned a colour to each speed limit so that an overview of the proposed speed limits can be observed. Furthermore, an additional map has been produced which highlights streets whose speed limit is proposed to change.

Of all the streets which were reviewed, there are approximately 850 instances of streets currently under a 30mph speed limit which are proposed to be reduced to a 20mph speed limit. Meanwhile there are approximately 70 instances of streets which are currently under a 30mph speed limit which are proposed to remain at a 30mph speed limit.

The results are presented below according to Council Wards in order to highlight the changes that are proposed on a local basis. In addition a focus has been provided around the Sherrifhall roundabout. It should be noted that work is still in progress in this area and the proposed speed limits have the potential for further revision.

Figures contained within the results show the existing speed limits, and the proposed changes based on the assessment and review. The results figures only highlight the streets that have been reviewed, they do not show the wider street network with Midlothian which has not been subject to the 20mph and 30mph review.

5.3 Bonnyrigg Ward

Figure 1, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Bonnyrigg Ward, while Figure 2 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

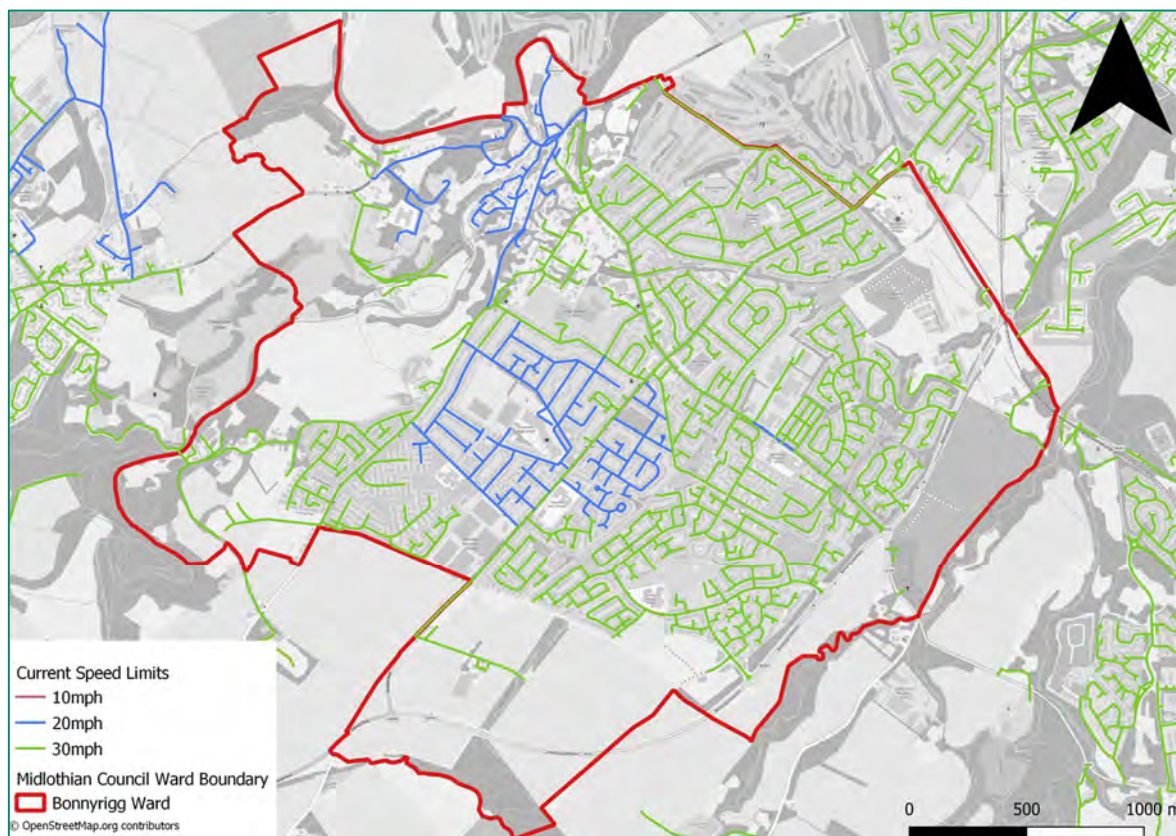


Figure 1. Bonnyrigg Existing Speed Limits

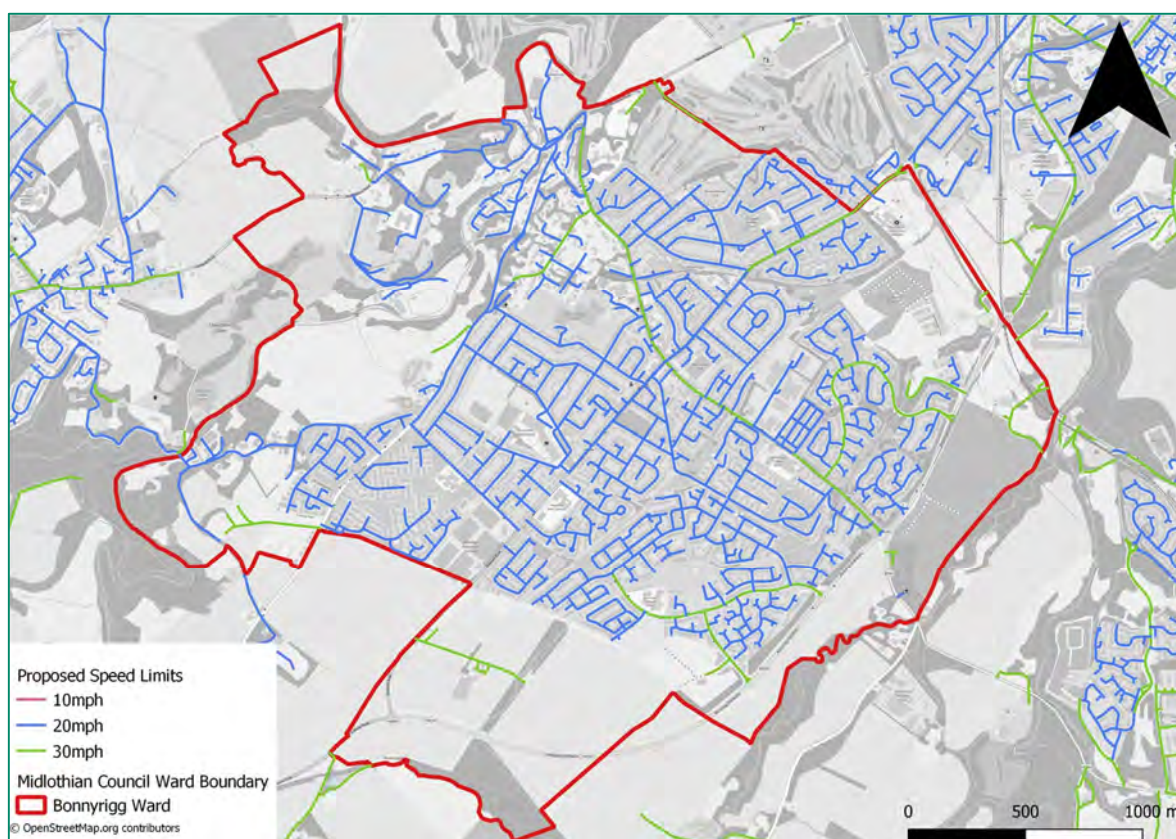


Figure 2. Bonnyrigg Proposed Speed Limits

5.4 Dalkeith Ward

Figure 3, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Dalkeith Ward, while Figure 4 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

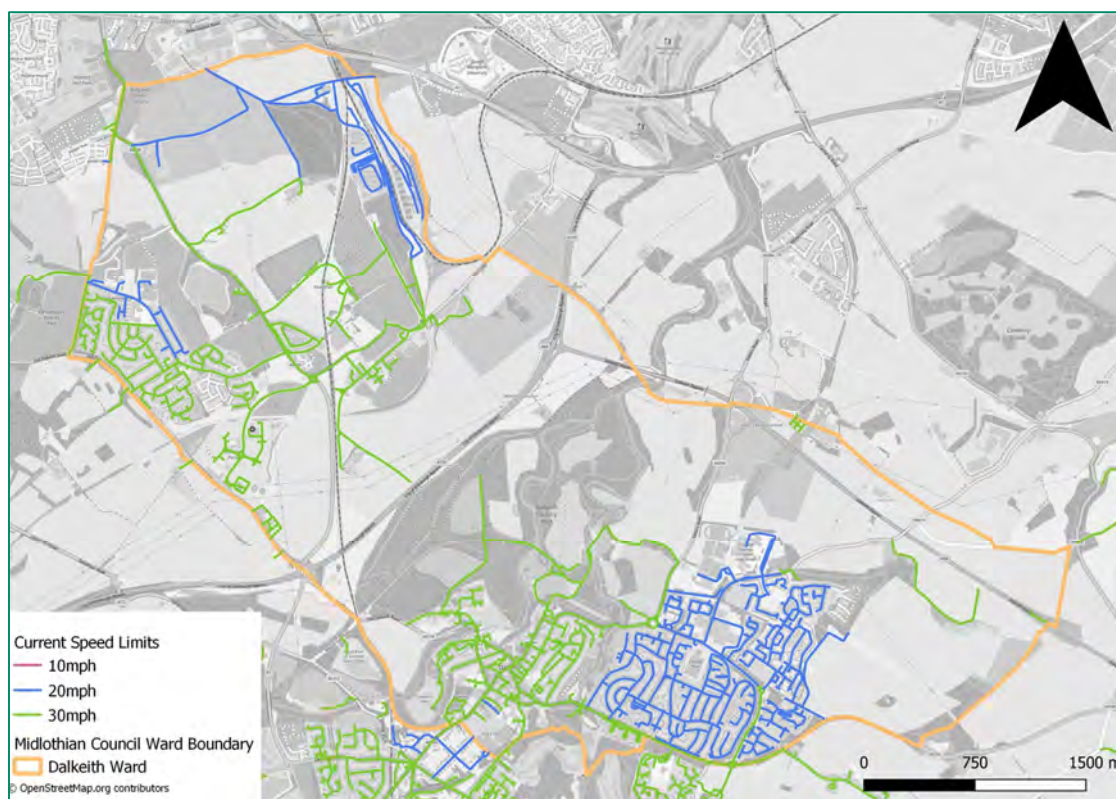


Figure 3. Dalkeith Existing Speed Limits

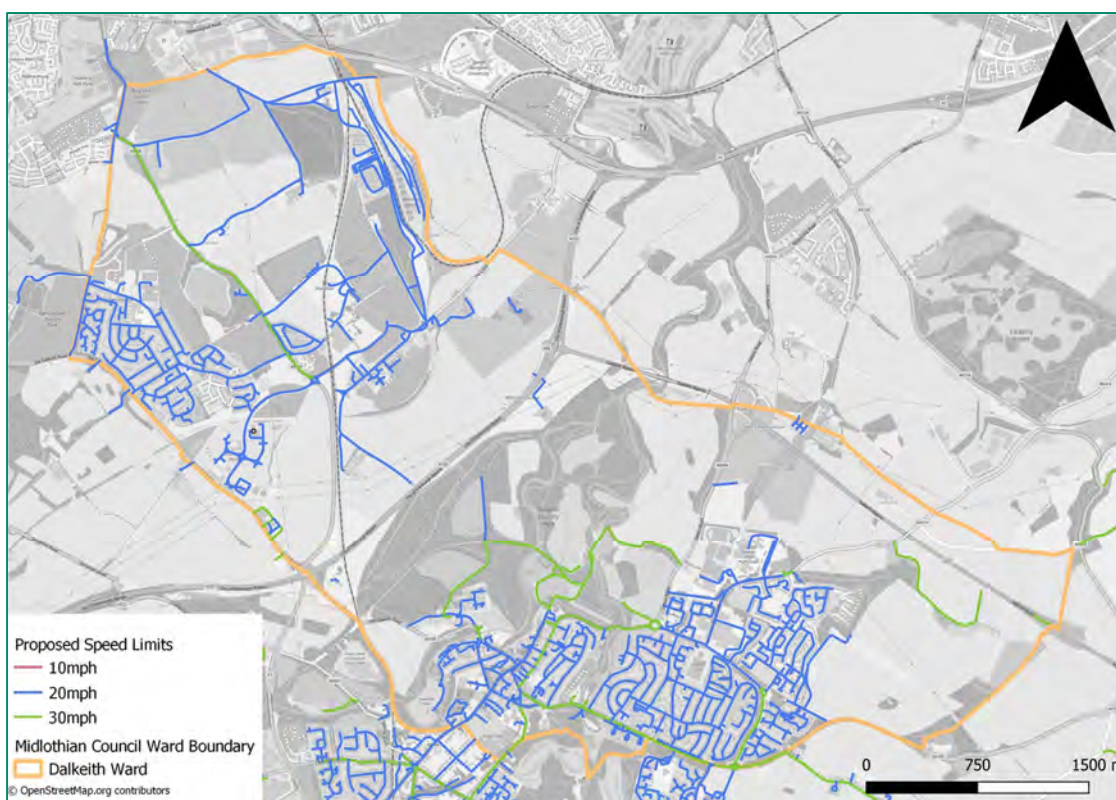


Figure 4. Dalkeith Proposed Speed limits

5.5 Midlothian East Ward

Figure 5, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Midlothian East Ward, while Figure 6 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

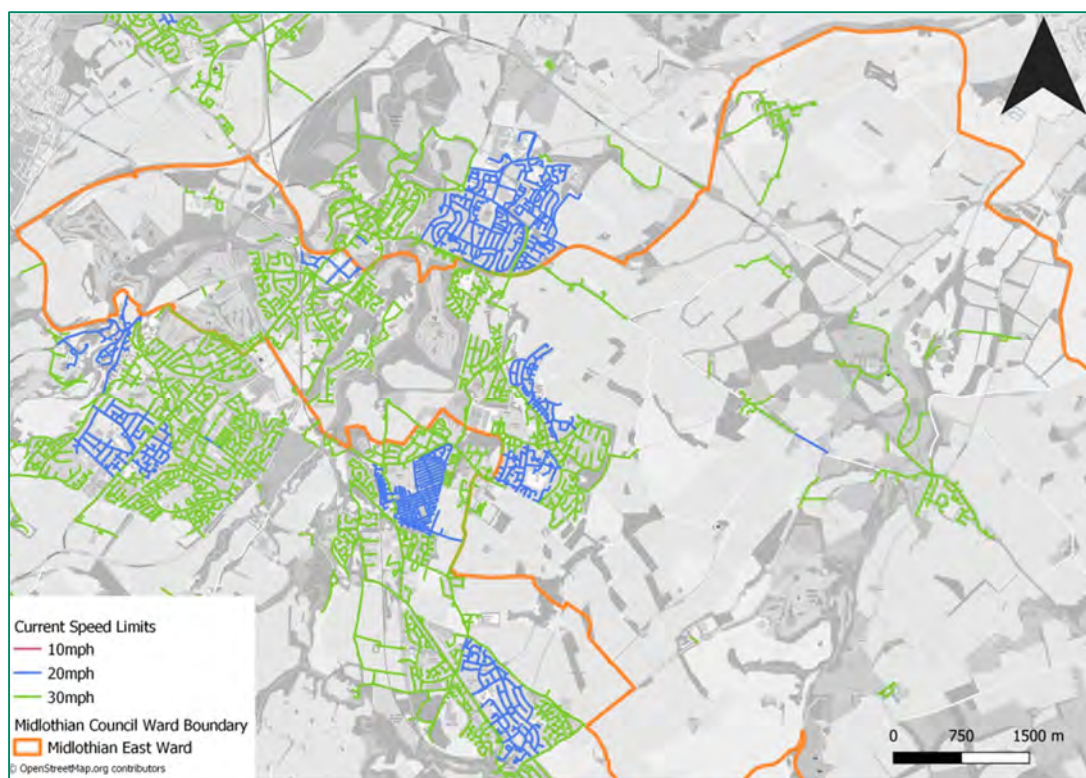


Figure 5. Midlothian East Ward Current Speed Limits

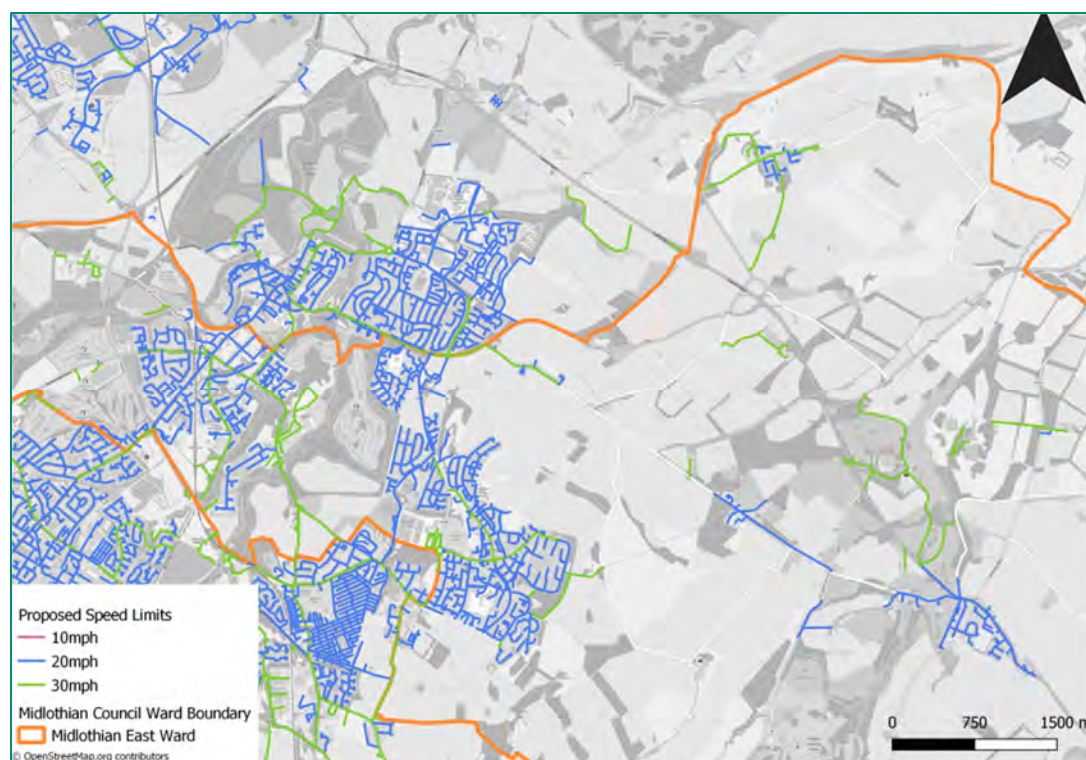


Figure 6. Midlothian East Ward Proposed Speed Limits

5.6 Midlothian South Ward

Figure 7, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Midlothian South Ward, while Figure 8 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.



Figure 7. Midlothian South Ward Existing Speed Limits

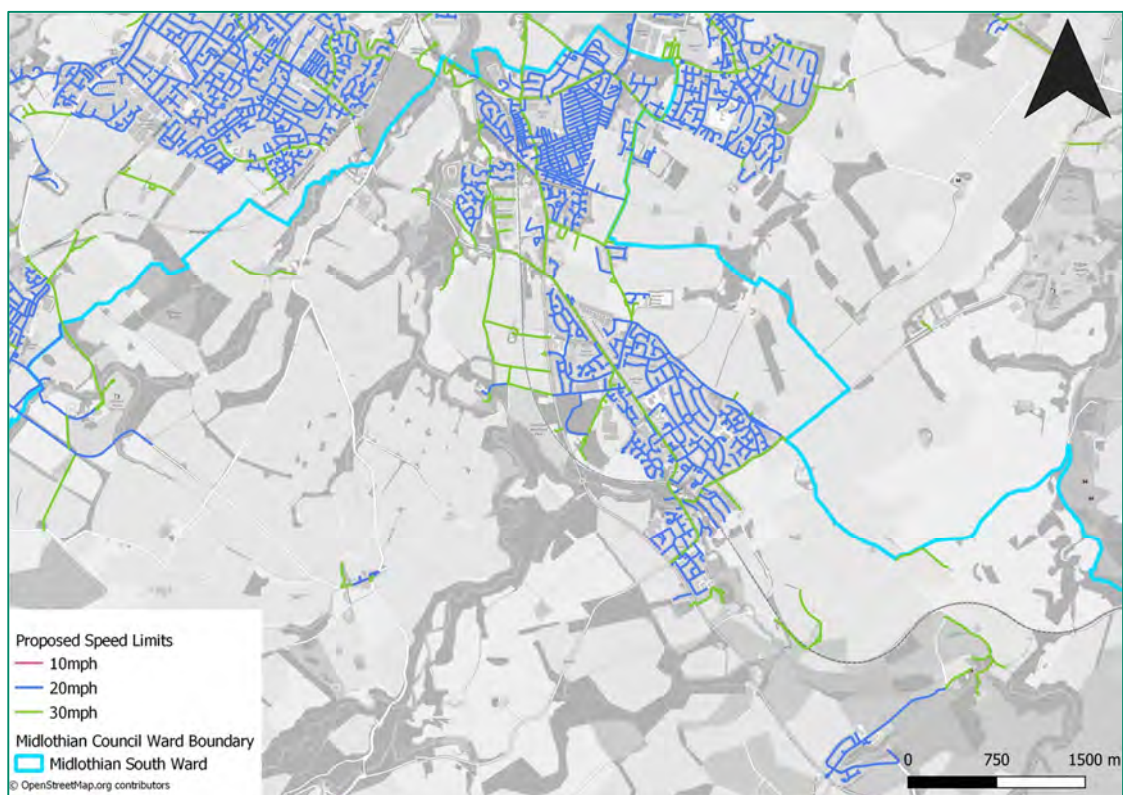


Figure 8. Midlothian South Ward Proposed Speed Limits

5.7 Midlothian West Ward

Figure 9, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Midlothian West Ward, while Figure 10 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

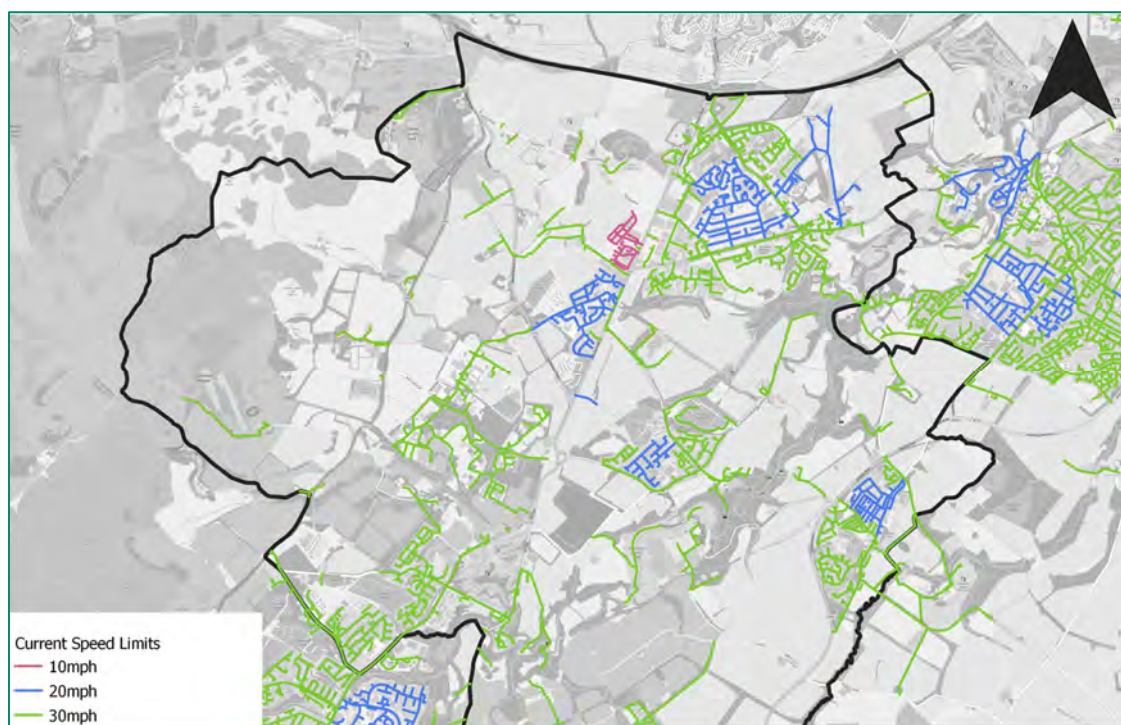


Figure 9. Midlothian West Current Speed Limits

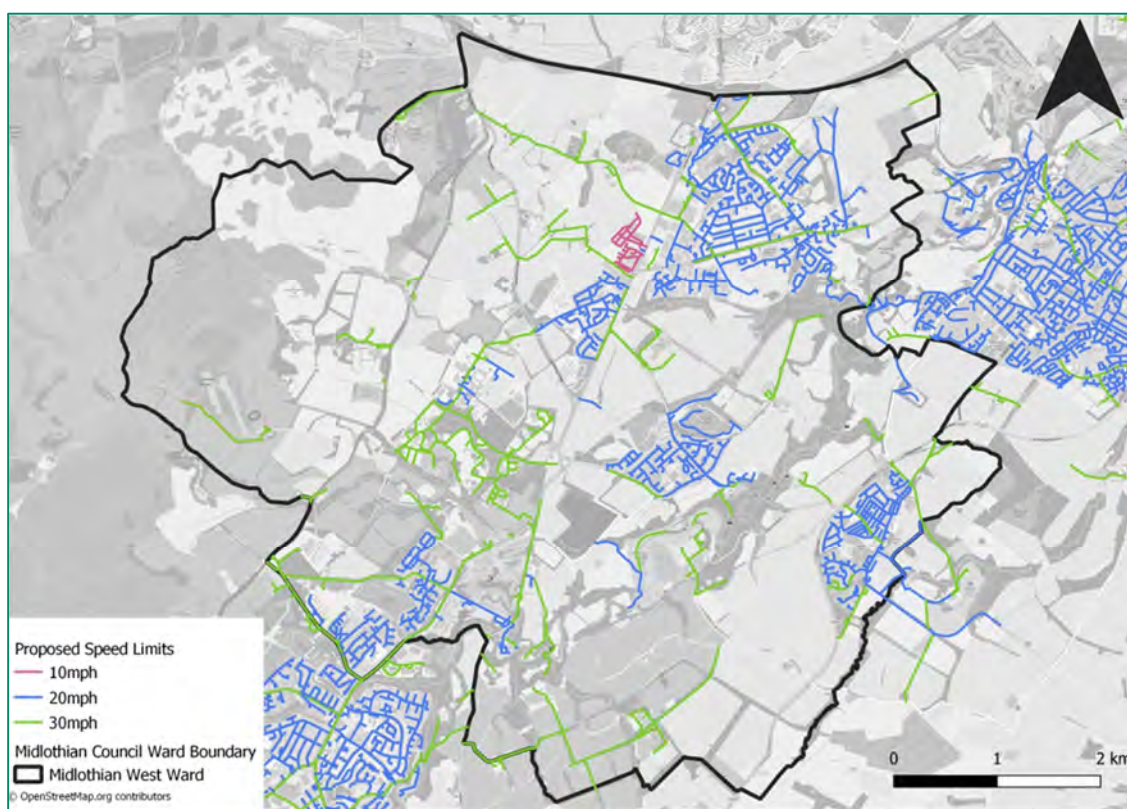


Figure 10. Midlothian West Proposed Speed Limits

5.8 Penicuik Ward

Figure 11, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Penicuik Ward, while Figure 12 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.



Figure 11. Penicuik Ward Existing Speed Limit



Figure 12. Penicuik Ward Proposed Speed Limit

5.9 Dalkeith with Shawsfair and Millerhill

Figure 13, below, shows the existing speed limits of 20mph and 30mph streets within the Dalkeith, Shawsfair and Millerhill area, while Figure 14 shows the proposed speed limits. The Figures are contained in greater detail in Appendix A.

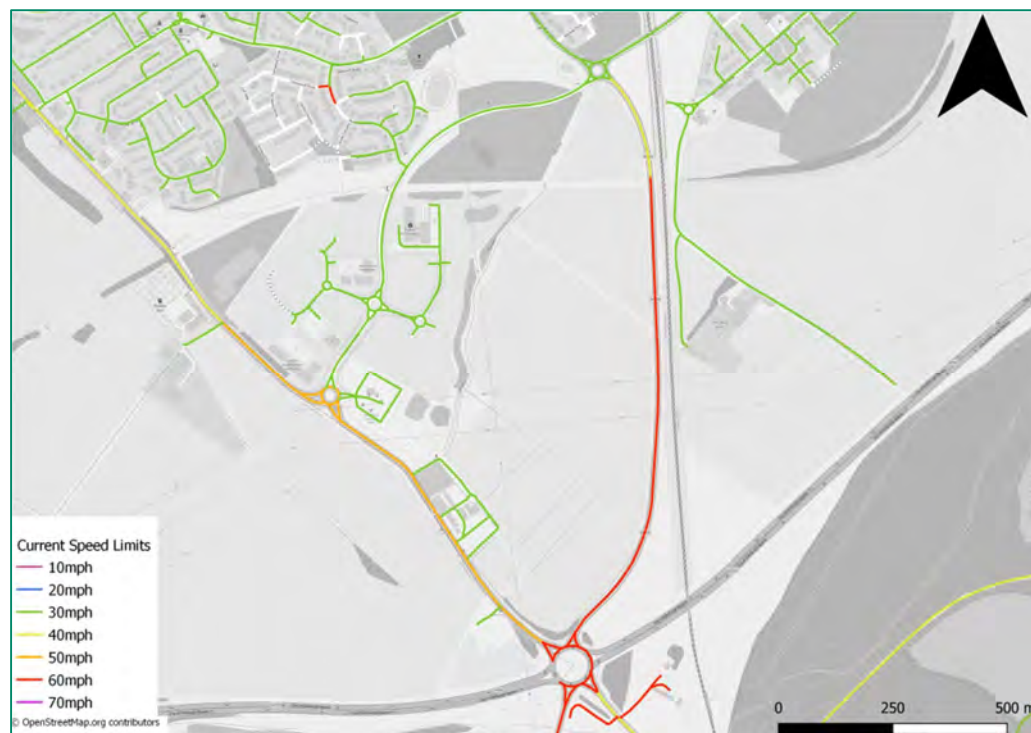


Figure 13. Dalkeith with Shawsfair and Millerhill Existing Speed Limit

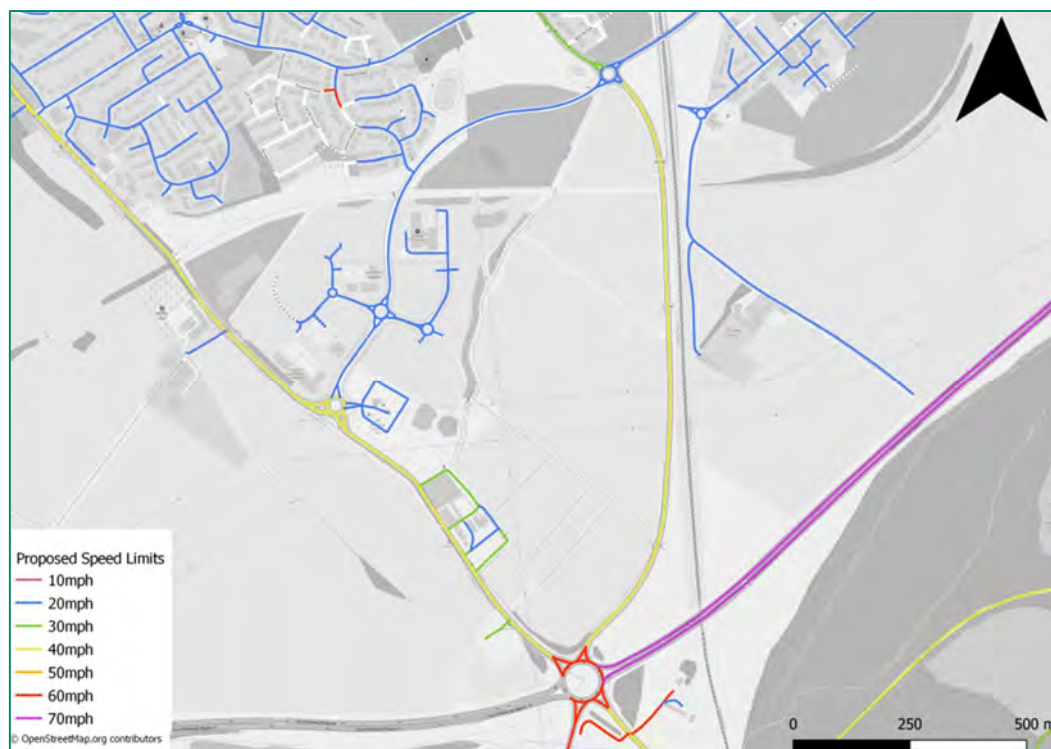


Figure 14. Dalkeith with Shawsfair and Millerhill Proposed Speed Limit

6. Summary

6.1 Introduction

Midlothian Council has commissioned AECOM to carry out a review of speed limits within its area. This report highlights the methodology used in carrying out the first stages of this study, reviewing the current 20mph and 30mph zones.

6.2 Methodology

The methodology has employed use of Midlothian Councils policy for the implementation of speed limits. Each individual street currently subject to a 30mph speed limit has been assessed according to this policy in order to determine whether there is a requirement to propose a change to this policy. The results have been compiled into a GIS file following the review.

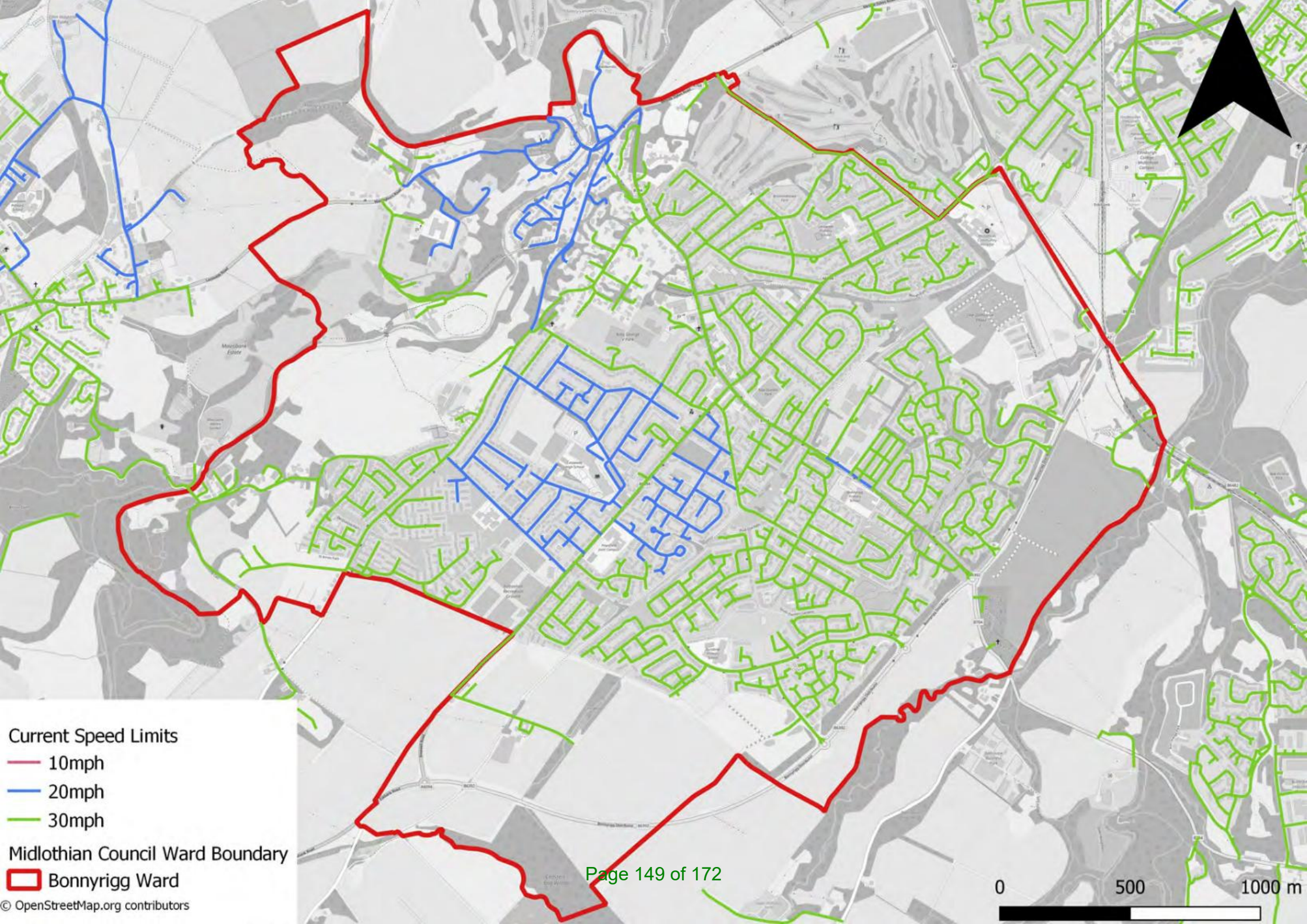
6.3 Results

A number of streets within Midlothian have been identified as being suitable for a proposed change in speed limit. These results are highlighted in this report and provided in detail to the Council.

6.4 Summary and Next Steps

The study has considered the streets subject to an existing 20mph and 30mph speed limit. The next stages of the project will be to continue the review with 40mph, 50mph, 60mph and 70mph streets according to the Councils policy.

Appendix A – Current and Proposed Speed Limit Plans



Current Speed Limits

10mph

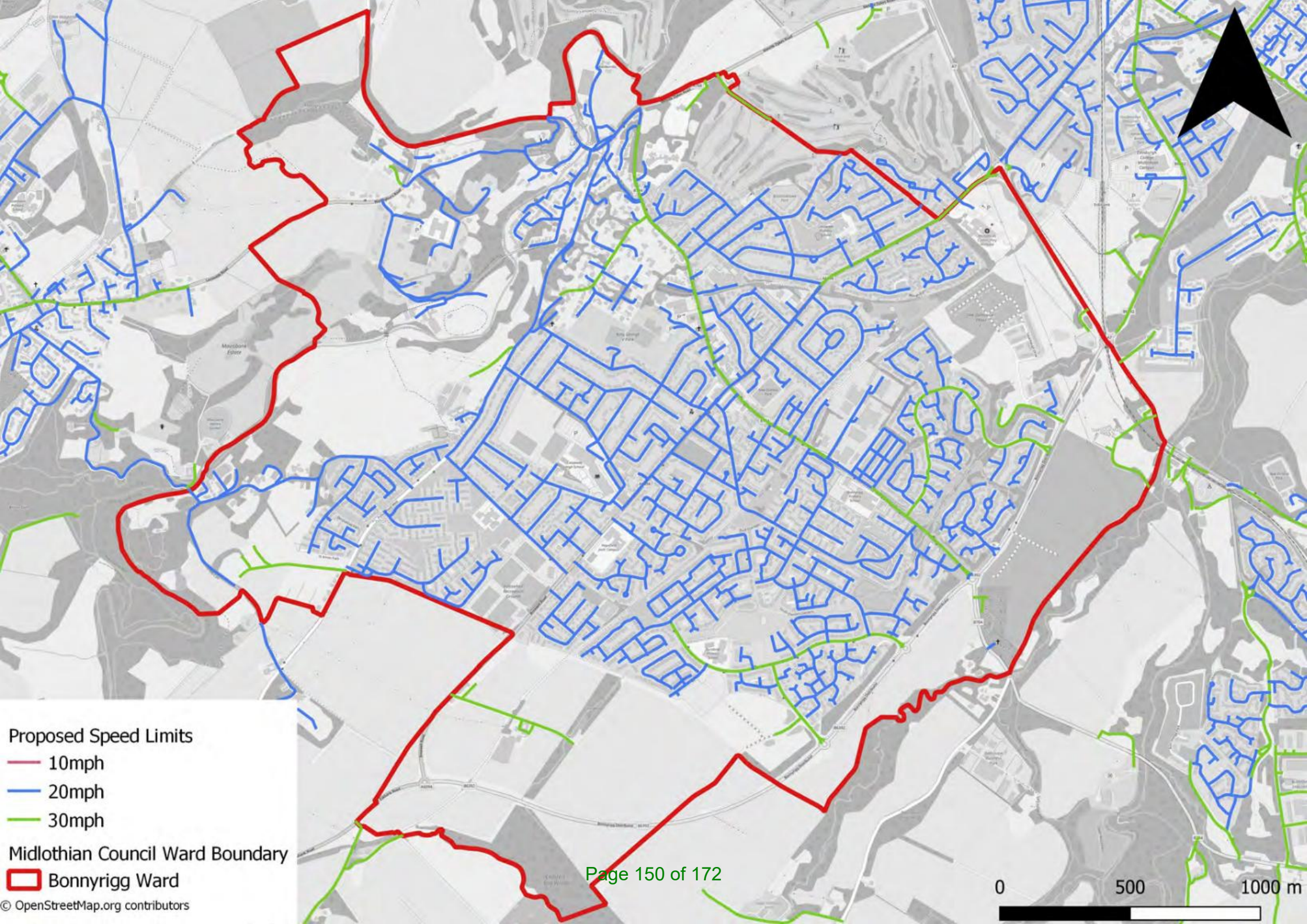
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Bonnyrigg Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

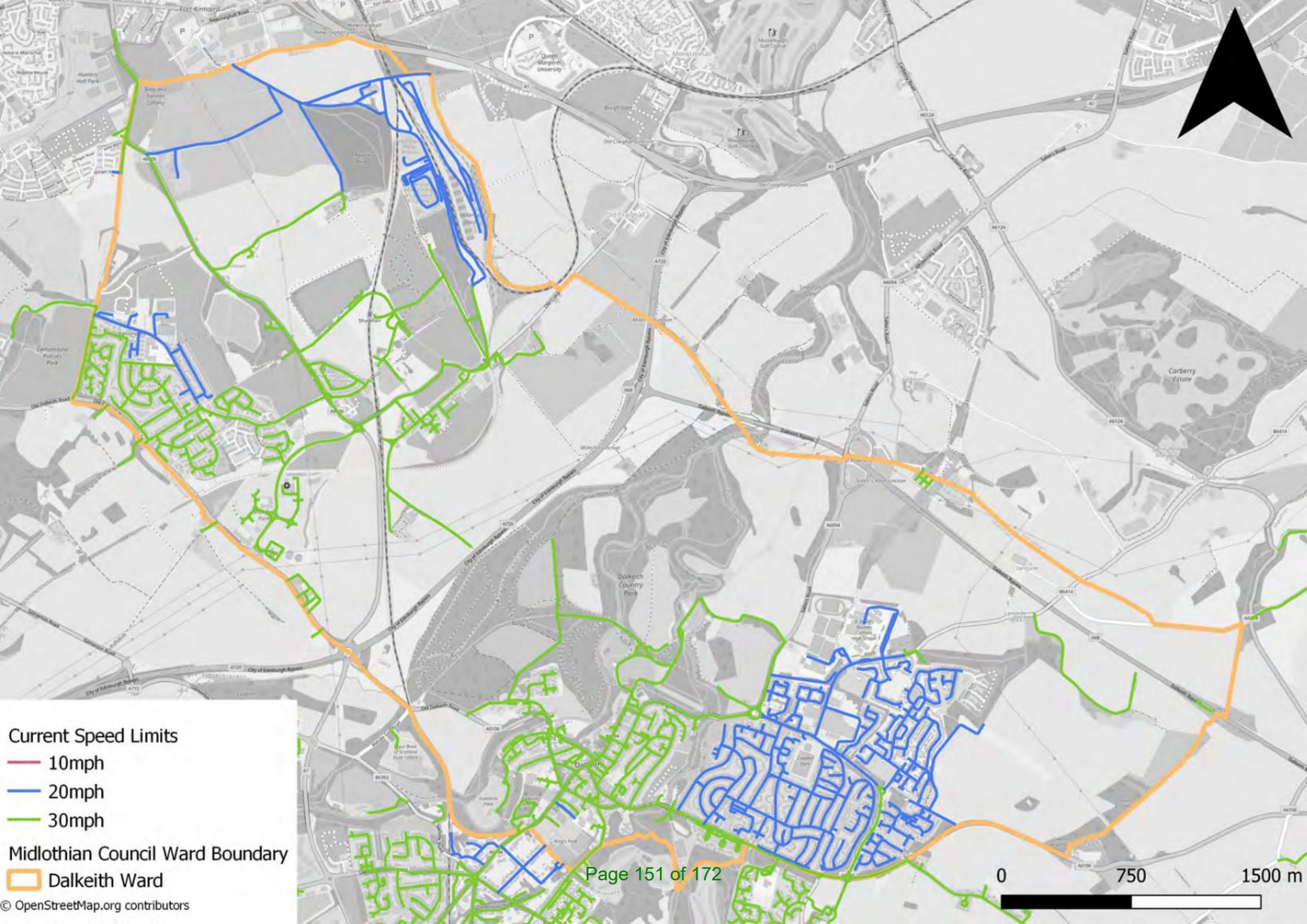
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Bonnyrigg Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

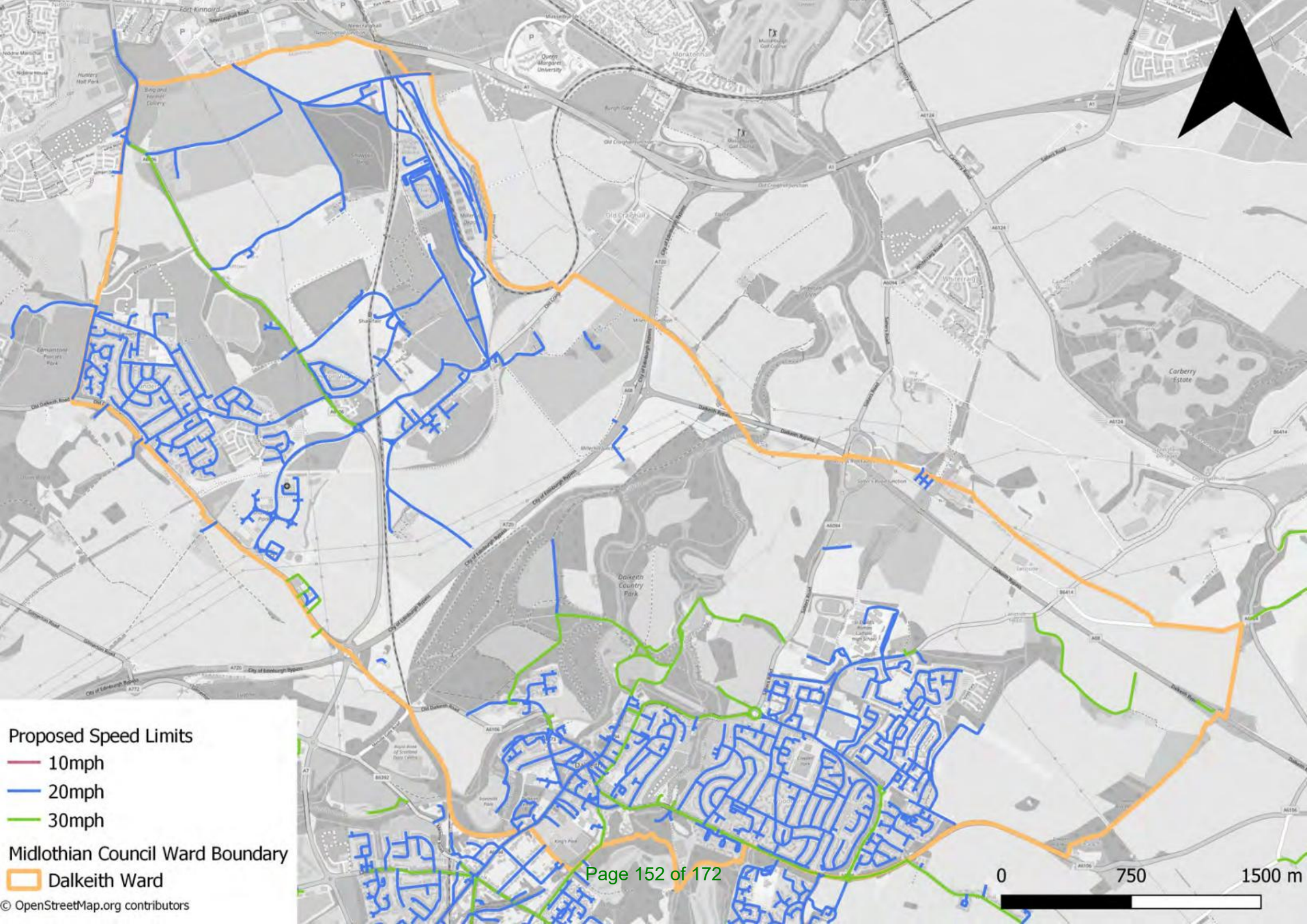
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Dalkeith Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Dalkeith Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian East Ward



Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian East Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian South Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

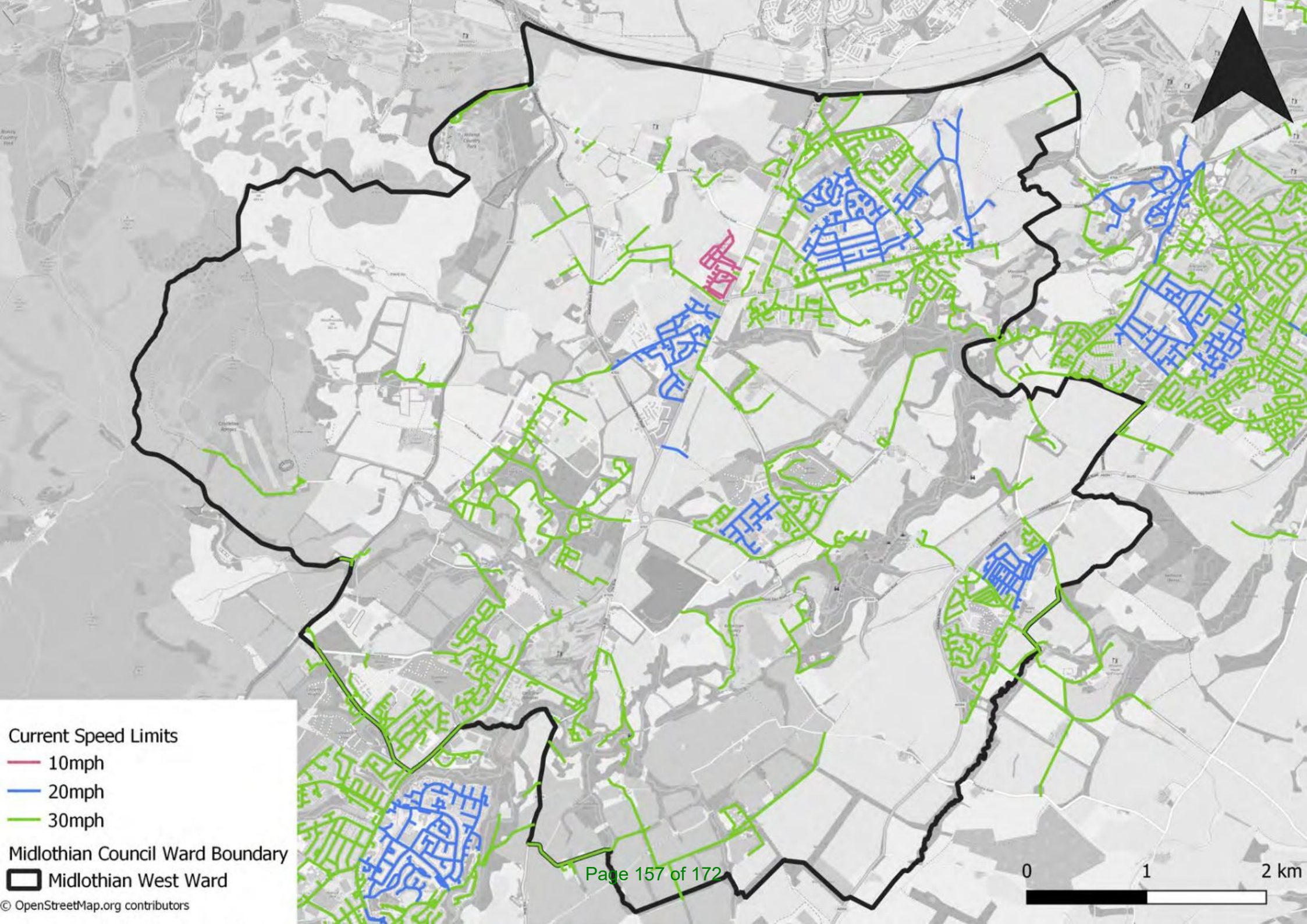
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian South Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

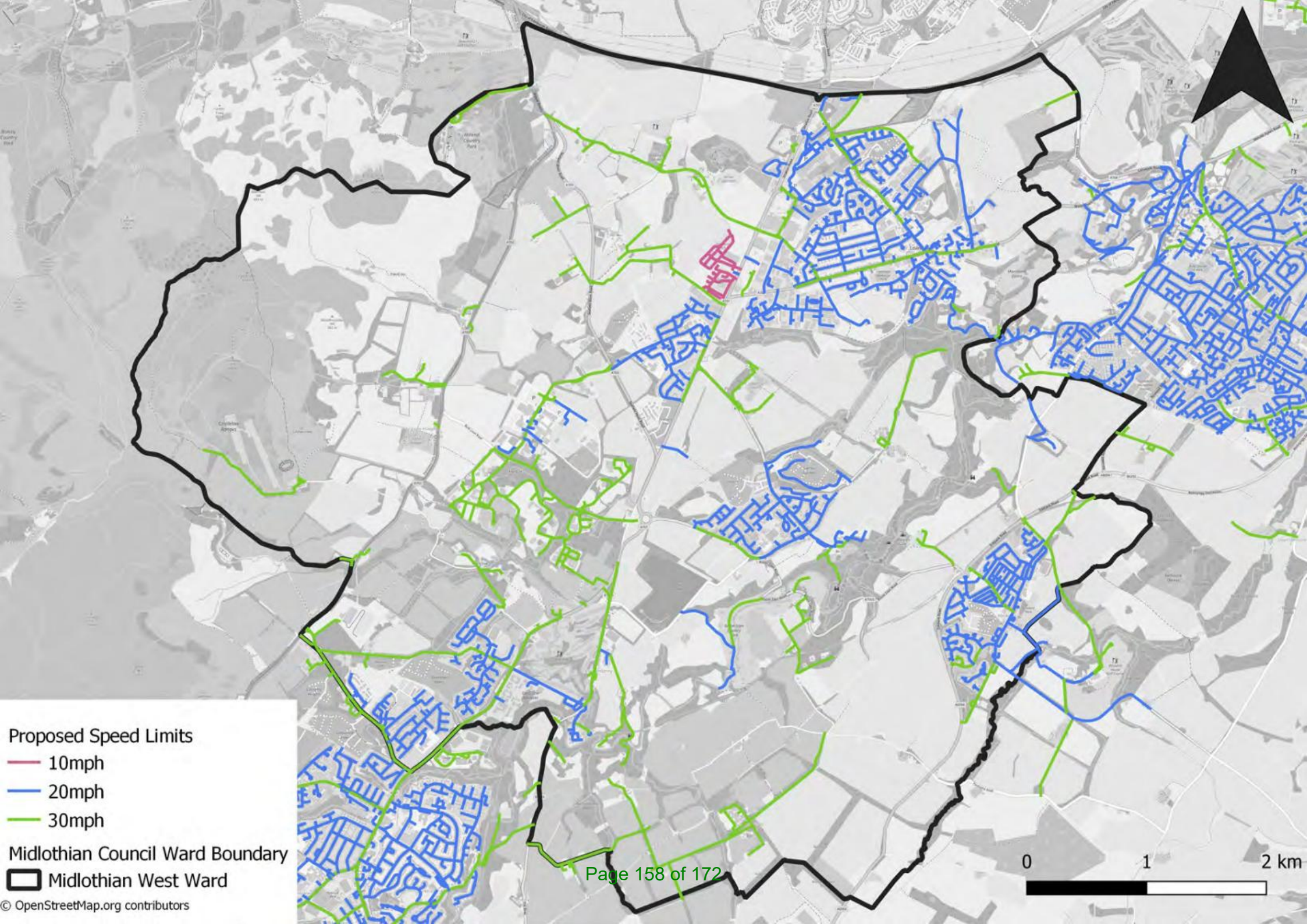
20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian West Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Midlothian West Ward

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Current Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

Penicuik Ward

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Proposed Speed Limits

10mph

20mph

30mph

Midlothian Council Ward Boundary

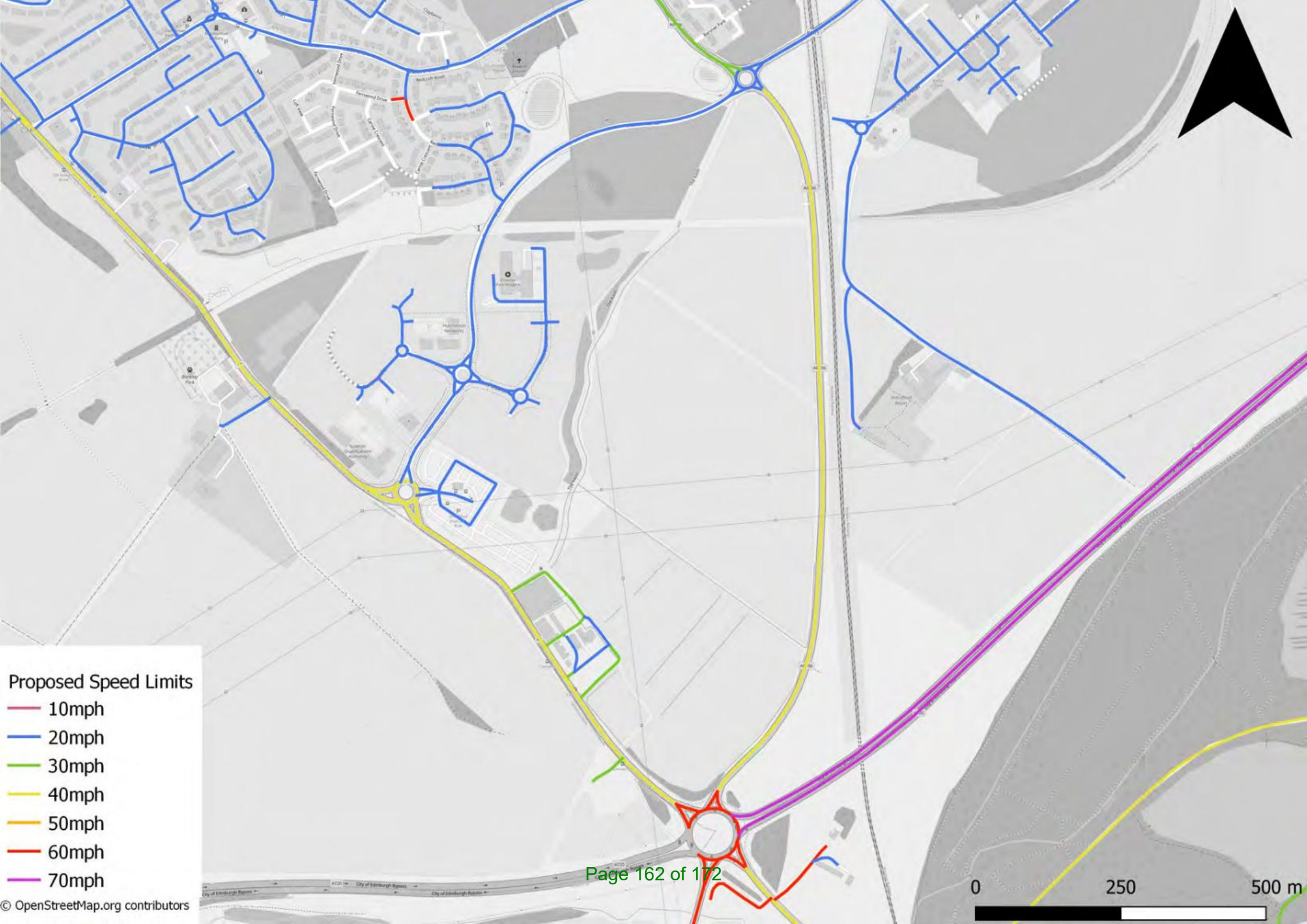
Penicuik Ward

© OpenStreetMap.org contributors

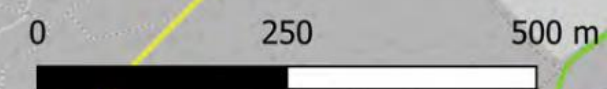


Current Speed Limits

- 10mph
- 20mph
- 30mph
- 40mph
- 50mph
- 60mph
- 70mph



- Proposed Speed Limits
- 10mph
 - 20mph
 - 30mph
 - 40mph
 - 50mph
 - 60mph
 - 70mph



Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan – Housing First Report

Report by Kevin Anderson, Executive Director - Place

Report for approval

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that Council:

- (a) Approves the continuation of Housing First for a fourth year up to 31st March 2024, and
- (b) Approves the proposals for Housing First to be considered as part of the wider Temporary Accommodation and Support Services contract from 1st April 2024.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update Council and also outline plans for the delivery of Housing First in Midlothian in 2023/24. The objective of this proposal is to ensure continuation of the service for a further year with a view to incorporating Housing First into a revised tenancy support contract from April 2024.

Date: 30/03/2023

Report Contact:

Name Matthew McGlone, Housing Options Development Officer

Tel No 07785 440 478

Email matthew.mcglone@midlothian.gov.uk

3 Background

- 3.1 The Scottish Government published its Ending Homelessness Together- High Level Action Plan. This action plan set out how homelessness would be reduced through a shift to prevention of homelessness and a focus on a Housing First approach. Following the publication of this action plan all Scottish Local Authorities were required to publish a Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) by December 2018, demonstrating how they intended to move to a rapid rehousing model over a period of five years.
- 3.2 Midlothian Council included plans to develop Housing First as part of its RRTP and incorporated a provision for Housing First tenancies to be created within its Housing Allocation Policy. *Housing First is aimed at people who have multiple and complex needs and who may have a history of rough sleeping and repeat homelessness. The Housing First approach ensures those with high support needs are allocated settled accommodation with intensive support. There is no requirement to prove 'tenancy readiness'.* Following a delay due to the Covid-19 pandemic Midlothian Council launched Housing First in June 2020.
- 3.3 Following meetings with authorities and agencies who were part of the Housing First Pathfinder, a model of Housing First was developed that could be delivered within the context of homelessness and housing in Midlothian. This included the following features:
- Ensuring partnership working was embedded throughout the process
 - A gradual creation of Housing First tenancies.
 - Avoiding lengthy waiting lists/creation of a backlog of people moving in.
 - A focus on reducing the time from acceptance of accommodation to moving into the tenancy
 - Ensuring people are provided with a 'home' rather than an empty flat.
- 3.4 20 people were accepted for Housing First in each of the first two years of the project and remains on course to create a further 20 in year three. The Scottish Government started to collect and publish data relating to Housing First on 01/04/2021. Between 01/04/2021 and 30/06/2022 only five other Local Authorities created more Housing First tenancies than Midlothian.
- 3.5 Midlothian Council has always been clear that should the support service not have capacity to take on new service users, due to the support needs of those currently being supported, the process will be paused. This is to ensure the focus remains on tenancy sustainment and positive outcomes for those being supported rather than the number of ongoing tenancies.
- 3.6 The current contract with the Housing First support provider commenced on 01/06/2020 for an initial 12 month period. Midlothian exercised the option to extend the contract for a further 2 years (1+1). The terms of the contract were revised slightly in year 3 to increase the staffing resource and ensure sufficient capacity within the service.
- 3.7 The Housing First support service in Midlothian has been fully funded by utilising Ending Homelessness Together Funding received from the Scottish Government. Additional staffing resources to co-ordinate and monitor Housing First have been provided from existing service budgets and resources.

- 3.8 The Scottish Government have supported the RRTP activities of local authorities through the provision of a grant received each year.

Table 1 below shows the funding received by Midlothian Council up to Financial Year 2022/23, along with details of the projects currently being funded as reported in Midlothian's most recent RRTP and the Activity and Spend Monitoring report to the Scottish Government.

Table1: Breakdown of RRTP funding received and projects funded to up to 2022/23.				
Funding allocation	Amount	Project	Expenditure	Remaining
RRTP Development Funding	32,000.00	Housing First - Year 1 Pilot (Part)	32,000.00	0.00
RRTP funding 2019/20	141,000.00	Housing First - Year 1 Pilot (Part)	8,145.00	132,855.00
		Housing First - Year 2 Pilot (Part)	12,456.80	120,398.20
		0.5 FTE Grade 6 Temp Officer (Mayfield) 3 Years	60,199.10	60,199.10
		0.5 FTE Grade 6 Temp Officer (Shared Accommodation) 3 Years	60,199.10	0.00
RRTP funding 2020/21	137,000.00	Bunk Beds For Mayfield	1,350.00	135,650.00
		Furnishing Properties @ Hillside	16,720.96	118,929.04
		Housing First - Year 2 Pilot (Part)	27,814.20	91,114.84
		Homelessness Officer 2 year	72,011.50	19,103.34
		Housing First Year 3 (Part)	19,103.34	0.00
RRTP funding 2021/22 (Extra)	85,000.00	Housing First Year 3 (Part)	37,245.66	47,754.34
		2 year Youth Homeless Service (part)	47,754.34	0.00
RRTP funding 2021/22	127,000.00	2 year Youth Homeless Service (part)	127,000.00	0.00
RRTP funding 2022/2023	121,000.00	2 year Youth Homeless Service (part)	25,245.66	95,754.34
		1 FTE Grade 6 HML 1 year 2023/24	43,909.00	51,845.34
		0.5 FTE Grade 6 Temp Officer (Mayfield) 1 year 2023/24	21,954.50	29,890.84
		0.5 FTE Grade 6 Temp Officer (Shared Accommodation) 1 year 2023/24	21,954.50	7,936.34
		Temporary accommodation - Loanhead Families Project	7,936.34	0

- 3.9 The Scottish Government have confirmed the funding for Midlothian in 2023/2024 will be £113,941. It is proposed that Midlothian Council uses this funding to procure a Housing First support service for a further year up to the end of March 2024. It is recommended that after this period the Housing First support service is then incorporated as a specific function within the wider Housing Support contract.
- 3.10 Midlothian's phased approach to roll out Housing First tenancies in matching resource to demand has been a key factor in the success of the scheme to prevent a backlog of people otherwise facing lengthy waits to move into a permanent tenancy. In the long term it is not feasible to support an increased demand without also increasing the staffing support resource, resulting in new Housing First tenancies only being created as capacity in the service allows.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

The cost of delivering Housing First for a fourth year can be met through funding received from the Scottish Government Ending Homelessness Together Fund allocation 2023/24. The current Housing First contract provides 2x FTE support workers through a tendered, contracted external provider. In order to ensure sufficient resources within the service it is recommended that an additional 0.5 FTE worker is funded for 2023/24. This would create a service with 2.5 FTE support workers. The estimated cost of provided 2.5 FTE members of staff would be £70.5k. There will be sufficient capacity within the funding received to account for increases to living wage and other costs.

4.2 Risk

There is a risk of negative scrutiny from external agencies such as the Scottish Government and interested third sector organisations if the Council is not seen to be engaged and delivering Housing First.

There is a risk of tenancy failure of vulnerable people with multiple/complex support needs not maintaining their tenancy if the support provided by Housing First is not continued.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes to be addressed in this report:

- ☒ Community safety
- ☒ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☒ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☒ Sustainable growth
- ☒ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

4.4 Key priorities in the Single Midlothian Plan

Midlothian Council and its community planning partners have made a commitment to treat the following areas as key priorities under the Single Midlothian Plan:

- Reducing inequalities in the health of our population
- Reducing inequalities in the outcomes of learning in our population
- Reducing inequalities in the economic circumstances of our population

The themes addressed in this report impact on the delivery of the Single Midlothian Plan. Particularly in relation to the delivery of affordable housing, homelessness, health and social care, improved economic outcomes and creating sustainable communities.

4.5 Ensuring Equalities

Social landlords perform all aspects of their housing services so that every tenant and other customer has their individual needs recognised, is treated fairly and with respect, and receives fair access to housing and housing services.

An Integrated Impact Assessment was undertaken as part of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan ensuring all actions have taken account of the needs of equality groups in relation to homelessness.

4.6 Supporting Sustainable Development

Continuing to provide Housing First in Midlothian will support the long term development of sustainable communities in Midlothian. This is achieved by helping people remain in their current accommodation, reducing the need for multiple placements in emergency accommodation, and other moves resulting from homelessness, reducing re-offending and providing a settled base for people to address other non-housing related support needs. This is further enhanced by assisting people to establish supportive relationships in the community, and improve education and employment outcomes.

4.7 IT issues

There are no IT issues.

APPENDIX A – Report Implications

A.1 Key Priorities within 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 project aim is to deliver Best Value

A.5 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

Stakeholders including Midlothian Tenants Panel, Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership, and voluntary organisations have all expressed support for the aims of Midlothian Council's Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan, including the prevention of homelessness. The revised RRTP is also submitted for approval by elected members on an annual basis following submission to the Scottish Government.

During 2022 Midlothian Council completed the inaugural 'Housing First check-up' and undertook a short exercise to seek the views of service users with lived experience of Housing First. The feedback received from internal partners, service users and external agencies was largely positive. The only concern raised related to the ratio of staff to service users.

A.6 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Providing a Housing First service has a positive impact across a range of areas including:

- Reducing the negative impact of homelessness on a person's wider social needs
- Reducing the time spent in temporary accommodation
- Reducing the overall number of people on the homeless list
- Improving the opportunity for people to fulfil their potential and become active members of their community
- Improving wider outcomes for homeless people in Midlothian such as health and economic outcomes
- Reducing inequalities experienced by homeless people, including those related to health, education, and employment
- Improving tenancy sustainment, and reducing the number of people in rent arrears, ensuring the council provides best value to tenants.
- Contributing to the development of sustainable communities.

A.7 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Housing First not only prevents repeated homelessness by providing support to successfully manage and sustain a tenancy but also adopts a preventative approach to recurring issues relating to the individual's wider support needs.

A.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable

