REPORT NO 286/04

ANGUS COUNCIL

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

4 MARCH 2004

20 MPH SPEED LIMITS AT SCHOOLS
TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT
This report seeks approval for the promotion of the necessary traffic regulation orders for the introduction of 20 mph limits at schools.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 It is recommended that the committee agree:

i) to the promotion of the necessary traffic regulation order for the introduction of part-time 20mph limits at the schools listed in Appendix A;

ii) to the promotion of the necessary traffic regulation order for any adjustments required to the existing 30mph speed limits at villages where the proposed part-time 20mph limits are at the edge of a village;

iii) to the promotion of the necessary traffic regulation order for the introduction of 20mph speed limits in the areas around the schools listed in Appendix B where physical traffic calming measures are proposed (as shown in the plans in Appendix C).

2 DETAILS

2.1 Report No 86/04 approved by the Infrastructure Services Committee on 22 January 2004 detailed progress with the preparation of schemes to introduce 20mph limits at schools and noted that further reports would be brought forward with details of the proposed traffic regulation orders required.

2.2 Appendix A lists all the schools, which were identified in Report 86/04 as being suitable for part-time 20mph speed limits. Given the long lead-in time required between the start of the traffic regulation order process and the making of the order it is proposed to include all the schools at this time even though the details of the precise locations for the signs for the new limits cannot yet be finalised.
2.3 Detailed plans are not yet available for the extent of the proposed speed limits at each of these schools. The general principle contained in the guidance from the Scottish Executive is that these limits are to be restricted in length and clearly related to the presence of the school. It may be necessary at some schools to adjust the length of the limit because of the practical difficulty of physically locating the (quite large) signs. This will require all potential sites to be surveyed in detail.

2.4 Four of the schools listed in Appendix A are on the edge of the villages concerned (Aberlemno PS, Auchterhouse PS Carmylie PS and Edzell PS) and it may be necessary to make minor adjustments to the length of the existing 30 mph speed limits at these locations. This is necessary to ensure that the speed of derestricted traffic is stepped down within a 30 mph limit before then being stepped down again to the part-time 20 mph limit.

2.5 Discussions will take place with the police before finalising the extent of the proposed speed limits.

2.6 It is anticipated that the extent of the proposed speed limits will be determined before the draft orders are advertised.

2.7 The schools listed in Appendix B are those which were identified in Report 86/04 as areas where physical traffic calming measures are proposed. As indicated in that Report the schemes at Webster’s High and Southmuir Primary Schools and Hayshead Primary School are now progressing and detailed design work will start shortly on the others.

2.8 The extents of the proposed 20mph speed limits in the areas surrounding the schools listed in Appendix B are shown in the drawings in Appendix C.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The estimated cost of implementing the proposals will be contained within the Scottish Executive’s ring-fenced capital allocation for 20 mph speed limits around schools and related safety projects for 2004/05 (£234,000) and 2005/06 (£233,000).

4 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no human rights implications arising from the proposals in this report.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Chief Constable have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

5.2 The Chief Constable has commented that while Tayside Police are generally supportive of the proposals they do have some reservations. The police have in the past been reluctant to endorse 20mph speed limits that are not self regulated by other traffic calming measures. The considerable increase in the number of part-time 20mph schemes proposed in the report will present significant enforcement issues for
the police. The Chief Constable has concerns that the level of enforcement the police will be able to provide may not meet public expectations, particularly as vehicle speed in and around schools is by nature an emotive subject.

5.3 However, given the ring-fenced funding specifically allocated for this purpose it is clear that the Scottish Ministers are keen to see the use of 20mph speed limits at schools increased to the point where it becomes the norm rather than the exception. The Director of Roads is of the view that notwithstanding the concerns of the Chief Constable the proposals put forward in this report will be beneficial in terms of road safety.

5.4 A lot will depend on the public’s reaction to the widespread use of 20mph speed limits. It is hoped that increased coverage will make drivers more familiar with the concept and more prepared to adopt appropriate speeds in the vicinity of schools. If this ‘culture change’ does not materialise the issue of available resources for police enforcement is one which may have to be pursued by ACPOS at a national level.

6 CONCLUSION

6.1 Traffic Regulation Orders are necessary to allow the enforcement of proposed 20 mph speed limits around schools.

6.2 Because of the long lead-in time to promote these Traffic Regulation Orders it is proposed to initiate the process before the details of the locations of the necessary signs are finalised.

Ronnie McNeil
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report:-

Report No 1143/03 “Additional Funding for 20 mph Speed Limits Around Schools” approved by the Infrastructure Services Committee on 16 October 2003.

Report No 86/04 “20 mph Speed Limits at Schools” approved by the Infrastructure Services Committee on 22 January 2004.

NJ/JSG
3 February 2004
REPORTS/20mph.schools
• Aberlemno Primary School
• Airlie Primary School
• Auchterhouse Primary School
• Carmylie Primary School
• Chapelpark Primary School
• Edzell Primary School
• Friockheim Primary School
• Glamis Primary School
• Kinloch Primary School
• Kirkriggs Primary School
• Langlands Primary School
• Newbigging Primary School
• Seaview Primary School
• Southmuir Primary School
• ST Thomas RC Primary School
• Wardykes Primary School
• Webster’s High School and Southmuir PS, Kirriemuir
• Timmergreens Primary School, Arbroath
• Hayshead Primary School, Arbroath
• Andover Primary School, Brechin
• Maisondieu PS, Brechin