FINANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

RESTRICTED ROADS (20mph) BILL FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION FROM

Introduction

1. South Lanarkshire Council’s Local Transport Strategy 2013-23 provides a number of policy and actions relating to road safety. One of these states that the council will support and encourage driving at 20mph or below in residential areas and outside schools.

2. The Bill is consistent with the local strategy as well as national commitments to move towards a 20mph speed limit in built up areas.

3. The introduction of lower speed limits will likely have a positive impact on the frequency and severity of accidents and the associated casualty numbers in Scotland.

4. The Council are therefore supportive of the principles of this Bill.

Funding

5. It is inevitable that there would be costs associated with the introduction of the Bill, both from a financial perspective but also in the allocation of staff time.

6. The estimated costs that have been used for the introduction of the Bill are likely to be under estimated as the number of existing signs and initiatives currently on-street would require to be removed or altered. These relate to the following

   a) alterations to settlement / gateway signage and road markings,
   b) removal/alterations to vehicle activated signs
   c) removal of 20’s Plenty initiative signing and road markings
   d) removal of 20mph repeater signs in existing areas/zones
   e) removal of 20mph part time speed limits at schools.

7. It is noted that the introduction of the Bill would result in any changes to signing being introduced over a relatively short period of time. This would bring its own challenges in terms of deliverability due to available resources.
Regulation

8. At this time it is unclear how the legislation will be introduced. It is likely that current Traffic Regulation Orders will require to be revoked or amended. Preference would be to implement a simplified process such as a default speed limit to apply from a nationally set date.

9. It is noted that a national publicity campaign is being considered as part of the introduction of the Bill. This would require to be co-ordinated at both a national and local level.

Timescales

10. The introduction of the Bill would benefit from a longer lead in time not only to allow the practicalities of altering any orders and implementing signing / lining alterations but also to allow for the transition from the current arrangements to the new ones to be made for the benefits of motorists and Police Scotland as the enforcement authority.

Conclusion

11. South Lanarkshire Council are generally supportive of the Bill and the principles behind it. The costs and practicalities surrounding the proposed changes require further detailed consideration due to resourcing implications.