RURAL ECONOMY AND CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE

RESTRICTED ROADS (20 MPH SPEED LIMIT) (SCOTLAND) BILL

SUBMISSION FROM KEEP SCOTLAND BEAUTIFUL

Introduction

Keep Scotland Beautiful is the charity that campaigns, acts and educates on a range of local, national and global issues to change behaviour and improve the quality of people’s lives and the places they care for. We are committed to making Scotland clean, green and sustainable. We work with organisations, schools, communities and individuals to help reduce carbon emissions, improve the quality of local environments and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Keep Scotland Beautiful welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee on the Restricted Roads (20 mph Speed Limit) (Scotland) Bill.

Response

We are broadly supportive of the main purpose of the Bill to reduce the general speed limit on restricted toads to 20 miles per hour. We are also supportive of the policy aims of enhancing road safety, changing driving culture, improved health outcomes and more active travel, reducing inequality and tackling pollution. We believe that alongside the ambitions measures proposed by the Transport (Scotland) Bill, this Bill has the potential to help to transform our towns and cities into cleaner, greener and more sustainable locations.

Regarding enhancing road safety and encouraging active travel, we acknowledge and welcome the fact that the reduction to 20mph is likely to reduce the risk of accident, injury or death, particularly for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists along with encouraging active travel.

Regarding tackling pollution, we welcome the fact that the potential reduction in emissions, both from an increase in journeys made by active travel and the cited potential emissions reduction from diesel vehicles, would improve air quality and enhance local environmental quality, along with contributing positively to action to tackle climate change. This has the potential to improve the health and well-being of residents, workers and visitors, making living, visiting and travelling in our cities more a more positive experience.

We support the view that the Bill has the potential to have a strong positive impact on the health and well-being of Scotland’s citizens through increased opportunities for active travel, safer spaces within which to live and commute, increased positive health outcomes though exercise and positive surroundings as well as a reduction in road deaths and injuries.

We believed that the bill, alongside a range of other legislative measures, has the potential to have a positive impact on sustainable development in Scotland. In conjunction with the Low Emission Zones proposed in the Transport (Scotland) Bill, the Bill has the potential to
support the creation of safer and more resilient communities where active and public transport are seen to be the norm, creating more pleasant places to live and work.