

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

19 February 2015

Report by Director of Environment

AMENDMENT OF ELECTRONIC SPEED SIGNING AROUND SCHOOLS

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek approval from the Cabinet to implement a proposal to remove existing part-time electronic 20mph speed limit signing around schools and replace with standard school signing.
2. Electronic signing would be retained at six sites based on the criterion outlined in the report.
3. This will demonstrate improved future value and will be in line with sound asset management principles.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. It is recommended that the Cabinet approve the proposal to phase out life expired part-time electronic 20mph speed limit signing around schools and replace with standard school signing.

**BACKGROUND**

5. In 2004 the Scottish Government issued an instruction to Council's to install part-time 20mph speed limit signing outside all schools and provided grant funding over three years to facilitate this (photo in appendix 1). It was envisaged that this signing would reduce vehicular speeds and in turn reduce severity and frequency of accidents outside schools. A trial was undertaken between 2001 and 2003 in five local authorities and the key finding was that "speeds are seen to be reduced". There was no evidence in respect of the extent of the speed reduction.
6. Prior to installation, signing locations were verified on site by the Police to ensure the sites were enforceable when lights flash during school peak periods. It is widely acknowledged that regular enforcement is required to ensure compliance with speed limits. There has been no Police enforcement of these school sites in ERC. This is common amongst most local Councils.
7. No evaluation has taken place nationally to show whether part-time 20mph speed limit signing has been beneficial in terms of reducing speeds and/or accidents outside schools.
8. No resources were provided by the Scottish Government in subsequent years to maintain these signs. The signs have been exposed to the elements for up to nine years. This coupled with general wear and tear has left over 80% of sites non-operational. The technology has now been superseded and therefore spare parts are difficult to source and expensive to replace.

## REPORT

9. It is proposed to reduce the Councils liability in relation to repairing / replacing these signs by retaining electronic signing at six school sites as detailed below. These through routes were chosen as they carry a high volume of traffic and are subject to a significant level of pedestrian activity outside the school.

10. It is proposed to retain and maintain electronic part-time 20mph signing at the following sites:-

- *Capelrig Road - Eastwood High / Crookfur Primary*
- *Aurs Road – Barrhead High*
- *Eaglesham Road – Williamwood High / St Joseph’s Primary*

Cost approximation to ensure all these sites are fully operational:- £8,570

11. It is further proposed to decommission life expired electronic signs at the following locations and replace with standard school twin amber flashers. Standard twin amber flashers are reliable, low cost and conspicuous:-

- *Clarkston Road – Netherlee Primary*
- *Waterfoot Road – Mearns Castle High*
- *High Street / Kingston Road – Neilston Primary*

Approximate cost to decommission these three sites and install 2x new twin amber flashers at each site:- £8,000

12. For the remainder of school sites the proposal is to decommission the existing non-operational part-time 20mph signing and replace with standard school signing. 77 signs in total:-

- Remove sign and pole and re-instate footway @ £200 per sign:- 77 x £200 = £15,400
- Disconnect Scottish Power supply @ £760 per site:- 15 x £760 = £11,400
- Replace with standard school signing @ £200 per site:- £200 x 15 = £3,000

Total cost of proposals:- £8,570 + £8,000 + £29,800 = £46,370

## FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

13. The last site that was repaired was Eastwood High at a cost of £4,285. Based on this it would cost approximately £4,285 x 20 = £85,700 to repair all 21 existing part-time 20mph sites. To replace all life expired signs with new signs would cost in the region of £320,000.

14. The equipment is around nine years old and the policy of repairing and maintaining all signs would create a significant ongoing maintenance burden in subsequent years. Given the age of the equipment, repairing may only prolong signs use for a limited time. There is no specific budget set aside for this work and therefore changes will be introduced from existing budgets, over time, on a prioritised basis.

Total cost of proposals outlined in report:-	£46,370
Total cost of repairing all part-time 20mph signs:-	£85,700
Total cost of replacing all part-time 20mph signs:-	£320,000

## **CONSULTATION**

15. The Education Department has been consulted on the proposals and is satisfied that our proposal is satisfactory. Individual schools and Police Scotland will be notified of our intentions prior to any physical changes taking place.

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

16. The works would be carried out by the Council in conjunction with our Lighting Maintenance Contractor, Scottish Power, Roads Contracting Unit and TWM who are the manufacturers of the part-time 20mph signs.

## **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS**

17. There are no expected impacts in relation to staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities or sustainability.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

18. Undertaking the rationalisation proposals outlined in the report would cost £46,370 which is substantially less than the cost of repairing or replacing all part-time 20mph signs.

19. Importantly, our proposals would leave us with a system of signing at schools that can be readily maintained in future years using existing revenue budgets.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

20. It is recommended that Cabinet approve the proposal to phase out life expired part-time electronic 20mph speed limit signing around schools and replace with standard school signing. This will demonstrate improved future value and will be in line with sound asset management principles.

Director of Environment

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**KEY WORDS**

Part-time 20mph Speed Limit Signs, twin amber flasher.

## APPENDIX 1

### Example of part-time 20mph Speed Limit Signing



### Example of twin-amber flasher



### Example of standard school signing

