

# National Strategy for 20mph

## Road Assessment Guidance (June 2022)

### 1. Background

The National Strategy for 20mph (the Strategy) aims to expand 20mph speed limits across Scotland and will ensure all appropriate roads in built-up areas have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025. The strategy seeks to introduce a consistency for 20mph speed limits across the country, simplifying speed limits for drivers. It seeks to reduce perceptions of road danger, encourage people to walk, wheel and cycle, and create more pleasant streets and neighbourhoods by providing a more equitable balance between different road users and will contribute to the implementation of the safe system.

### 2. Purpose

To shape the direction of the strategy and gain agreement on the most appropriate route to implement 20mph speed limits, an assessment of the existing road network is required. The outcome of road assessment will assist in the decision making process and will be used to inform policy, guidance and Ministerial updates.

This guidance has been developed and approved through the National 20mph Sub Group, whose membership includes SCOTS (nine Scottish Local Authorities), Police Scotland, Sustrans and Transport Scotland) It sets out the place criteria (section 4) and the assessment process (section 5) to assist road authorities in the collection of the required information (section 12). Until the roads are assessed, it is not possible to determine the specific number of roads affected or the financial implications.

### 3. Definition of appropriate roads

Consideration was given to the term appropriate roads which is used in the 2021 Programme for Government commitment of “We will ensure **all appropriate roads** in built-up areas have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025, forming a task group to plan the most effective route for implementation”.

For clarity and in the context of the national strategy for 20mph speed limits, an appropriate road is considered to be *all 30mph roads* unless after the road assessment a valid reason is provided as to why they should remain at a speed limit of 30mph.

### 4. Place Criteria

Identifying any of the following place criteria will help to indicate the 30mph roads which are considered appropriate for potential alteration to 20mph. The roads which remain at 30mph will typically be on A and B Class roads with little frontage activity and where people walking, wheeling and cycling do not need to share space with motor traffic.

A minimum road length for the speed limit is suggested between 400-600m. The length adopted will depend on the conditions at or beyond the end points.

- a) Is the road within 100m walk of any educational setting (e.g. primary, secondary, further & higher education)

- b) Does the number of residential and/or retail premises fronting the road (on one or both sides) exceed 20 over a continuous road length of between 400 - 600m. Other key buildings should also be considered such as a church, shop or school.
- c) Is the road within 100m walk of any community centre, church, place of worship, sports facility, any hospital, GP or health centre.
- d) Does the composition of road users imply a lower speed of 20 mph which will improve the conditions and facilities for vulnerable road users and other mode shift. (reflect on future plans such as active and sustainable travel, places for people, consider existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users)
- e) Will the road environment, surrounding environment, community and quality of life impact (e.g. severance, noise, or air quality) be improved by implementing 20mph speed limits.

## 5. Assessment Process and Scope

To assist with the decision making a road assessment process has been set out as a flow chart which can be found at **Annex A**.

### Existing 20mph Speed Limit

To apply a level of consistency for 20mph speed limits across Scotland, all roads which currently have an existing speed limit of 20mph should be assessed against the place criteria (section 4). If the road does not meet the place criteria the road authority can consider if speed reduction measures are required (section 12); or consider changing to 30mph, recording the details on the road assessment form.

### Existing 30mph Speed Limit

The presumption is that most of the existing 30mph limits in towns and villages will be reduced to 20mph. However It is recognised that:

- a) not all 30mph roads which meet the place criteria are appropriate for a 20mph speed limit.
- b) there are 30mph roads which do not meet the place criteria but are suitable for 20mph.
- c) there are some 30mph roads that will remain at 30mph.

For clarity, all 30mph roads should be assessed using the place criteria and the decision/details recorded in the road assessment form. This includes identifying if the existing 30mph road is a restricted road. In addition the roads which are considered appropriate to reduce from 30mph to 20mph should also be RAG rated (section 11) with the details recorded on the road assessment form.

### Other Existing Speed Limits

For the purposes of the national strategy for 20mph, roads with a speed limit of 40mph or above are out of scope, however this does not prevent the road authority

from reviewing the speed limit independently. In line with current guidance” [Setting local speed limit: guidance for local authorities](#) “

## **6. Consideration of Wider Speed Reduction Measures**

While assessing the road network road authorities should also consider requirements for speed reduction measures to support the credibility of the new speed limit and help encourage compliance so that no enforcement difficulties are created for Police Scotland to address. These should be recorded as a RAG rating (section 11), providing details and indicative cost in the road assessment form which will assist to indicate implementation costs.

Examples of speed reduction measures are: village gateways, road layout markings, repeater road markings, vehicle activated signs, raised junctions, rumble strips etc.

## **7. Road Adjustments for Short Sections**

Short sections (400m or less) of 30mph road between two sections of 20mph roads should be assessed and adjusted to 20mph allowing for a continuous speed limit to apply depending on the road environment and characteristics.

## **8. Buffers Zones**

It may be appropriate to consider an intermediate speed limit, in particular where there are roads with high approach speeds (50mph or above) or outlying houses beyond a village boundary.

Buffer zones should be of a sufficient length in order to allow drivers to adapt their speed in advance of the reduction to 20mph. Desirable minimum length of a buffer is 400m, depending on the road environment and characteristics, however this can be reduced at the discretion of the road authority for slower approach speeds (40mph or less).

## **9. Hamlets or Small Settlements**

Where the characteristic of a settlement falls outside the definition of a village (20 or more properties directly fronting the road and a minimum length of 600m) and may have higher speeds running through them, road authorities are encouraged to use their discretion in deciding whether a lower speed limit is appropriate based on the road environment and characteristics.

## **10. Wider Road Policies**

Consideration of wider road policies should be given, such as active travel infrastructure, reallocation of road space, bus partnership measures, climate change, low emission zones, 20 minute neighbourhoods and future developments (section 4). Introducing these wider policies alongside 20mph may allow for a joined up approach to planned delivery and allow resources to be combined.

## **11. Red-Amber-Green (RAG) Rating for Speed Reduction Measures**

To give an indication on the potential wider speed management measures and the financial cost of implementation, when conducting the road assessment a RAG rating should be applied to the roads which may require changes and recorded in the road

assessment form (roads which remain unchanged do not need a RAG rating) as follows :

- Green – 20mph signing only
- Amber – may require speed reduction measures after an evaluation of the sign-only setting
- Red – will require speed reduction measures as part of the implementation of the 20mph speed limit from the outset.

In addition to the RAG rating a brief explanation should be recorded as to what the proposed speed reduction measures are and the indicative costs, as well as identifying the name/location etc of the road and indicating whether the road is a restricted road and/or met the place criteria.

## 12. Road Assessment Details Required

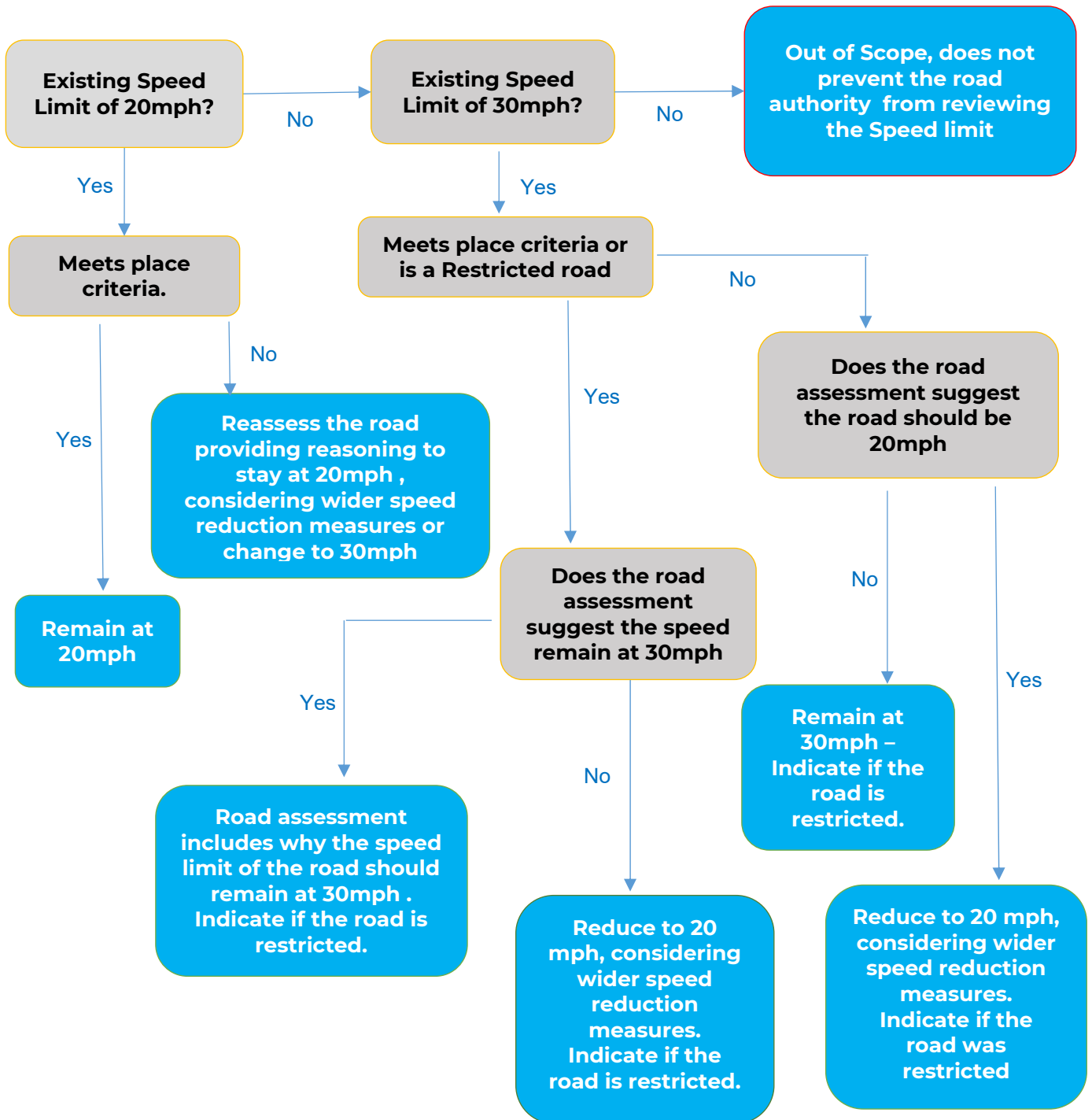
Following the terms set out in this guidance note, please identify and update the road assessment form for your area with the number of existing:

- 1) **20mph roads remaining at 20mph.** (Note: Assess 20mph roads and provide the total number of roads remaining at 20mph. Only RAG rate and record details in the road assessment form if the 20mph road may require speed reduction measures.)
- 2) **20mph roads changing to a 30mph.** (Assess 20mph roads and provide the total number of any roads increasing to 30mph. Record the details in the road assessment form.)
- 3) **30mph roads remaining at 30mph.** (Note: Assess 30mph roads, provide the total number of roads remaining at 30mph. Record the details of roads remaining at 30mph in the road assessment form **highlight if the road is restricted and/or met the place criteria.**)
- 4) **30mph roads changing to 20mph.** (Note: Assess 30mph roads, provide the total number of roads considered appropriate to reduce to 20mph. RAG rate and record the details of those roads in the road assessment form, **highlight if the 30 mph road is restricted and/or met the place criteria.**)
- 5) Provide a GIS map containing the current position for your area on existing 20 and 30mph roads
- 6) Provide a GIS map containing the proposed 20 and 30mph roads after the assessment.

## 13. Reporting outcomes

All road assessment information (section 12) should be returned to Transport Scotland at the following e-mail address Redacted – Regulation 11(2) no later than March 2023.

Annex A – Road Assessment



Annex B - Locations highlighted for consideration under the  
Road Assessment Guidance

**Settlement name**

Aberlour  
Ardrishaig  
Arisaig  
Arrochar  
Ballantrae  
Beith  
Benderloch  
Biggar  
Broadford  
Brora  
Cairnryan  
Callander  
Campbeltown  
Carlops  
Carronbridge  
Comrie  
Connel 1  
Connel 2  
Contin  
Corpach  
Coulter  
Craigellachie  
Crianlarich  
Crieff  
Crimond  
Crocketford  
Cromdale  
Doune  
Drumnadrochit  
Dumfries 1  
Dumfries 2  
Dundee 1  
Dundee 2  
Dundee 3  
Earlston  
Elgin  
Fairlie  
Fort Augustus  
Fort William 1  
Fort William 2  
Fort William 3  
Fort William 4  
Fraserburgh  
Gilmerton  
Girvan  
Golspie  
Greenock  
Hawick  
Helmsdale

Inverary  
Inverness 1  
Inverness 2  
Jedburgh  
Keith  
Kilwinning  
Kincardine  
Kingussie  
Kirkconnel  
Kirkoswald  
Kyle of Lochalsh  
Langholm  
Largs  
Lauder  
Lochawe  
Lochearnhead 1  
Lochearnhead 2  
Lochgilphead  
Mallaig  
Mauchline  
Maybole  
Methven  
Minishant  
Nairn  
New Cumnock  
Newtonmore  
Oban  
Pathhead  
Portree  
Rosyth  
Roybridge  
Sanquhar  
Scrabster  
Seamill  
Selkirk  
Skelmorlie/Wemyss Bay  
Spean Bridge 1  
Spean Bridge 2  
Springholm  
St Boswells  
St Fillans  
Stranraer 1  
Stranraer 2  
Strathyre  
Tarbert  
Tarbet 1  
Tarbet 2  
Taynuilt  
Thornhill  
Thurso

Uig 1  
Uig 2  
Ullapool  
West Linton  
Wick



**From:** Redacted - Regulation 11(2)  
**Sent:** 04 July 2022 11:57  
**Cc:** Redacted - Regulation 11(2)  
**Subject:** Action Required - Transport Scotland - National Strategy for 20mph - Road Assessment Funding - Guidance - Assessment Return Form  
**Attachments:** Sub Group - Road Assessment and Place Criteria - shared with 20 mph sub Group - Version 4 - June 2022.docx; Sub Group - Road Assessment and Place Criteria - Assessment Returns Form - June 2022#2.xlsx; Finance - Distribution Letter - 1.4 m for Road Assessments - Final Version - June 2022.doc

Good morning,

### **Funding allocation for the National Strategy for 20mph – Road Assessment**

As part of the National strategy for 20 mph, Transport Scotland have been working with SCOTS and COSLA through the 20 mph Task Group to identify the most effective route to implement 20mph speed limits across Scotland. It was recognised to support the decision making process that an assessment of the road network would be required to help identify the number of roads affected and the financial implications for implementation.

Transport Scotland worked with SCOTS and COSLA to estimate the likely cost implications of the national 20mph road assessment and, following agreement by SG Local Finance and COSLA leaders, advised funding of £1.4 million will be distributed across the 32 local road authorities in the financial year 2022-23 to resource the commencement and completion of the 20mph road assessment by March 2023.

Please refer to the attached letter for further information

I would be grateful if the attached road assessment guidance and the road assessment return form can be forwarded on to the relevant area to progress.

Kind regards

Redacted - Regulation 11(2) Road Safety Framework Delivery and Policy Manager

Roads Operations Directorate | Transport Scotland

Email : Redacted - Regulation 11(2)



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency  
*Còmhdhail Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhdhail*

Directors of Finance

Date:  
June 2022

Dear Director of Finance,

### **Funding to Conduct Road Assessment - National Strategy for 20 mph**

The National Strategy for 20 mph speed limits (the strategy) aims to expand 20mph speed limits across Scotland and will ensure all appropriate roads in built-up areas have a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025. The strategy seeks to introduce a consistency for 20mph speed limits across the country, simplifying speed limits for drivers. It seeks to reduce perceptions of road danger, encourage people to walk, wheel and cycle, and create more pleasant streets and neighbourhoods by providing a more equitable balance between different road users and will contribute to the implementation of the safe system.

To shape the direction of the strategy and gain agreement on the most appropriate route to implement 20mph speed limits, an assessment of the existing road network is required. The outcome of road assessment will assist in the decision making process and will be used to inform policy, guidance and Ministerial updates.

Guidance for the road assessment has been developed and approved through a National 20mph Sub Group, whose membership includes SCOTS (9 Scottish Local Authorities), Police Scotland, Sustrans and Transport Scotland. It sets out the place criteria and the process to assist road authorities to apply a consistent method of assessment and collection of the required information. Until the roads are assessed, it is not possible to determine the specific number of roads affected or the financial implications for implementation.

The guidance and a road assessment returns form have been provided as separate documents.

Transport Scotland worked with SCOTS and COSLA to estimate the likely cost implications of the national 20mph road assessment. Following agreement by SG Local Finance and COSLA leaders, funding of £1.4 million will be distributed across the 32 local road authorities in the financial year 2022-23 to resource the commencement and completion of the 20mph road assessment by March 2023. The additional funding will be paid independently from the Local Government settlement. The distribution method used was by road length in urban areas.

Following the outcome of the road assessment Transport Scotland will continue to work closely with SCOTS and COSLA to better understand further cost implications stemming from the to-be-

agreed route for implementation of the strategy and, subject to Ministerial approval, will seek to provide additional funding where required.

Please find attached each Local authority share of the £1.4 million (Annex A). Payment will be made by Transport Scotland, July 2022.

Yours sincerely

**Redacted - Regulation 11(2)**

**Transport Scotland  
Road Safety Framework Policy and Delivery Manager**

Local Authority	Urban Road Length	Approximate Rounded Allocation (£m)
Aberdeen City	853	0.058
Aberdeenshire	927	0.064
Angus	435	0.030
Argyll & Bute	446	0.031
Clackmannanshire	214	0.015
Dumfries & Galloway	664	0.046
Dundee City	576	0.040
East Ayrshire	464	0.032
East Dunbartonshire	432	0.030
East Lothian	469	0.032
East Renfrewshire	374	0.026
Edinburgh, City of	1,325	0.091
Eilean Siar	165	0.011
Falkirk	761	0.052
Fife	1,561	0.107
Glasgow City	1,799	0.123
Highland	1,132	0.078
Inverclyde	290	0.020
Midlothian	368	0.025
Moray	414	0.028
North Ayrshire	566	0.039
North Lanarkshire	1,271	0.087
Orkney Islands	121	0.008
Perth & Kinross	557	0.038
Renfrewshire	630	0.043
Scottish Borders	390	0.027
Shetland Islands	126	0.009
South Ayrshire	439	0.030
South Lanarkshire	1,218	0.084
Stirling	378	0.026
West Dunbartonshire	343	0.023
West Lothian	682	0.047
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,390</b>	<b>1.400</b>



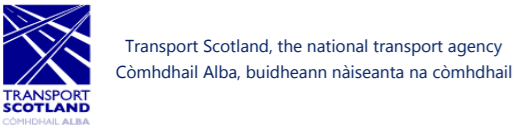
## Annex D - D&amp;G Results

## Place Criteria - To be applied when assessing the road network

Identifying any of the following place criteria will help to indicate the 30mph roads which are considered appropriate for potential alteration to 20mph. The roads which remain at 30mph will typically be on A and B Class roads with little frontage activity and where people walking, wheeling and cycling do not need to share space with motor traffic.

A minimum road length for the speed limit is suggested between 400-600m. The length adopted will depend on the conditions at or beyond the end points.

- a) Is the road within 100m walk of any educational setting (e.g. primary, secondary, further & higher education)**
- b) Does the number of residential and/or retail premises fronting the road (on one or both sides) exceed 20 over a continuous road length of between 400 - 600m. Other key buildings should also be considered such as a church, shop or school.**
- c) Is the road within 100m walk of any community centre, church, place of worship, sports facility, any hospital, GP or health centre.**
- d) Does the composition of road users imply a lower speed of 20 mph which will improve the conditions and facilities for vulnerable road users and other mode shift. (reflect on future plans such as active and sustainable travel, places for people, consider existing and potential levels of vulnerable road users)**
- e) Will the road environment, surrounding environment, community and quality of life impact (e.g. severance, noise, or air quality) be improved by implementing 20mph speed limits.**



Transport Scotland, the national transport agency  
Còmhdaill Alba, buidheann nàiseanta na còmhdaill

Name of Road Authority

Dumfries and Galloway

Assessment of 20 mph and 30 mph Roads

Following the terms set out in the road assessment guidance note, please identify and update the road assessment form (below) for your area with the required details for each of the steps and the number of existing:

Step 1 - 20mph roads remaining at 20mph. (Note: Assess 20mph roads and provide the total number of roads remaining at 20mph (Section A). Only RAG rate and record the details in the assessment form (Section E) below, if any of the 20mph roads may require speed reduction measures.)

Step 2 - 20mph roads changing to a 30mph. (Note: Assess 20mph roads and provide the total number of any roads increasing to 30mph (Box B). Record the details of the road change in the road assessment form (Section E) below.)

Step 3 - 30mph roads remaining at 30mph. (Note: Assess 30mph roads, provide the total number of roads remaining at 30mph (Section C) Record the details of roads remaining at 30mph in the road assessment form (Section E), highlight if the road is restricted and/or met the place criteria.)

Step 4 - 30mph roads changing to 20mph. (Note: Assess 30mph roads, provide the total number of roads considered appropriate to reduce to 20mph (Section D). RAG rate and record the details of those roads in the road assessment form (Section E), highlight if the 30mph road is restricted and/or met the place criteria.)

Step 5 - Provide a GIS map containing the current position for your area on existing 20 and 30mph roads

Step 6 - Provide a GIS map containing the proposed 20 and 30mph roads after the assessment. (overlay initial map to highlight the changes)

All the above information to be returned to: Redacted - Regulation 11(2).

RAG Rating Key

20mph Signing only  
May require speed reduction measures after an evaluation of the sign-only setting  
Will require speed reduction measures as part of the implementation of the 20mph speed limit from the outset

Summary table with columns: Section, Total Number. Rows: Section A (20mph roads remaining at 20mph) - 695, Section B (20mph roads increasing to 30mph) - 0, Section C (30mph roads remaining at 30mph) - 109, Section D (30mph roads changing to 20mph) - 2051.

Section E - Road Assessment Form

Main assessment table with columns: Road Name, Road Location Start, Road Location End, Current Road Speed, Proposed Road Speed, Restricted Road Y/N, Meets Place Criteria Y/N, Rag Rating (Red/Amber/Green), Brief Description - Speed Reduction Measures, Indicative Cost, Brief Description on Reason for Decision, Additional comment or information.

Calculations

Calculations table with columns: 20 remain 20, 20 increase to 30, 30 remain 30, 30 reduce to 20. Rows of TRUE/FALSE values corresponding to the main table.













































U393a Kestrel Hill			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U396a Gretenhov			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U397a Kingfisher Lane			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U402 Malin Park			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U403 Sarkfoot Close			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U404a Empire Park			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U42a Main Street			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U530a Gretna Loaning			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U545a Sarkside			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U546a Graitney			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U54a Stormont Crescent			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U557a Croft Road			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U565a Falcon Drive			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U566a Raven Place			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U567a Mallard Place			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U568a Curlew Rise			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U569 Mackies Drive			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U570a Border Crescent			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U571a Surone Court			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U572a Rosebank Court			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U574a Unwin Park			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
U575a St Ninians Grove			30	20	Y	Y							FALSE	FALSE	FALSE	TRUE
<b>Final Values</b>													595	0	109	2051



