

Midlothian Council Equality Impact Assessment Form



Information published by Midlothian Council can be provided on request in many of the community languages e.g. Cantonese, Punjabi, Urdu and also in large print, Braille, or audio tape. For more information please contact Midlothian Council on 0131 270 7500.

Lead contact: Ricky Moffat

Section A: Introduction

1. Title of policy, procedure or function being assessed

Lasswade Village 20 MPH Trial

2. Divisions/organisations/groups involved in doing this Equality Impact Assessment

Head of Service Commercial Operations

3. Date started: 27/01/2016 Date completed: 27/01/2016

Section B: Information

4. Please describe the Policy, Procedure or Function you are impact assessing

Over the last twelve months a 20 mph trial has been ongoing in the village of Lasswade. The purpose of the trial is to ascertain if this is considered successful and whether 20 mph limits should be extended to other areas.

5. What information and consultation data do you have to inform your assessment? What does it tell you?

The report refers to before and after speed results and before and after road accident statistics. In both regards there is very little differences.

In terms of speed the change is in the order of a 1 mph reduction. However when viewed against the prevailing speed limit (20 mph) there are now a far higher number of motorists exceeding the limit.

It is considered that the period of the trial is not sufficiently long enough to be significant.

Throughout the process regular contact has been maintained with local residents through the Lasswade and District Civic Society. They have provided a letter of support to retain the 20 mph limit and this is appended to the report. Whilst they acknowledge speeds have not reduced significantly their perception is that Lasswade is safer.

6. Do you need more information or more consultation/engagement data?

- Do you need anything more:
 - i. to do this Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)
 - ii. to monitor or assess, in future, the impact of the policy/procedure or function you are EQIAing on people with different equalities characteristics
- Lack of data is not a sufficient reason to conclude there is no impact. It is insufficient to state that a policy will affect everyone equally without having considered the different barriers some people may encounter.

No additional information is required to allow Council to make a decision.

Section C: Assessment

Midlothian Council equality impact assesses on **all** of the characteristics in the box below, so you should consider all of these in your assessment. If you want you can consider other groups as well.

Race (this includes ethnic or national origins, colour and nationality);

Disability (e.g. physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, mental health conditions or long-term illnesses)

Gender (male/female);

Age (all ages)

Sexual Orientation (gay man, gay woman/lesbian, bisexual, heterosexual/straight);

Religion or belief (including having no religion or belief)

Pregnancy and maternity (having just had a baby or being pregnant);

Gender reassignment or transgender status (a person who is proposing to undergo, is undergoing or has undergone a process to change their sex)

Marriage and Civil Partnership

People experiencing poverty or at risk of poverty: (poverty may be simply defined as not having enough money to meet one's basic daily needs or to have the things that most people in the UK take for granted).

As you answer questions 7i. to 7iv. over the page:

- a) Think about the policy, practice or function you are assessing and**
 - people with the above characteristics
 - people associated with them (e.g. a parent or carer)
 - people mistakenly assumed to have the above characteristics
- b) Consider whether the above people are likely to have different needs, or be affected in different ways by what you are doing/proposing. e.g.**
 - People may need, or benefit from, information provided in a particular format, like large print or easyread.
 - A queuing system which relies on people standing for long periods will make it very difficult for some people to use the service.
 - Charging more for a service is likely to affect people from several of the groups in the box above, as on average they have a lower income.

- Targeting an area of high poverty could leave people experiencing poverty outside the area even worse off in comparison
- c) Consider the General Equality Duty requirements to pay due regard to the need to:**
- eliminate discrimination, victimization, harassment or other local conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the characteristics listed in box at the top of this page (except poverty)
 - advance equality of opportunity between and foster good relations between people who share the characteristics in the box (except marriage and civil partnership and poverty)

7i. Note any positive impacts on the above equalities groups

Whilst there does not appear to be any significant change in driver behavior the perception of local residents is that the area is safer. This is particularly pertinent from a vulnerable users perspective e.g. disabled, elderly and children.

Retaining the 20 mph limit through Lasswade would therefore be viewed very positively from all users, particularly pedestrians.

7ii. Note any negative impacts on equalities groups

The results from the trial alone suggest that the lowering of a speed limit without either physical measures or additional enforcement is unlikely to see a change in driver behavior. On that basis and given the Council's budget position the recommendation is not to progress further 20 mph limits with signing and marking changes only.

In areas where speed is a significant issue and results in road accidents these would be considered separately and appropriate measures proposed.

7iii. How significant would this negative impact be, and what kind of numbers would be affected?

It is unlikely that, based on this and previous trials, lower speeds would be witnessed in areas where a 20 mph limit was introduced. However, if lower limits were considered with either significant traffic calming measures or sustained speed enforcement there is a stronger likelihood of compliance.

Given that the proposal at present is the introduction of wider 20 mph limits without physical measures or additional enforcement, and the likelihood of little change in driver behaviour, there would be no significant impact if these lower limits were not extended.

7iv. Note any opportunities for making a positive impact on equalities groups.

There are perceived benefits from the lowered limit in Lasswade and all residents view these as positive.

Section D: Actions and Outcomes

8. Note any actions you will be taking as a result of this equality impact assessment:

Think about what you can do to:

- minimise or remove any negative impacts, and
- maximise the opportunities for positive impacts

Consider requests for lowered limits only where physical measures or enhanced enforcement are likely which would give greater confidence that the lowered limit would be respected with consequent benefits for those in the vicinity of the lowered speed limit.

9. Please note any actions you have already taken as a result of this assessment here.

Recommended as officers that the limit through Lasswade is made permanent.

10. How will you track/monitor that the actions you mentioned in 8 have been achieved?

e.g. by adding them to a work plan, service plan etc.

The service plan makes specific reference to Scottish Government targets in terms of reducing accidents. We will continue to monitor accident data and come forward with appropriate recommendation should road safety measures, including lower speed limits be considered appropriate.

11. If you have decided not to take any action please note why this is, and any justification, here.

A significant negative impact, even if it affects only a small number of people, should be addressed.

N/A

Is a more detailed assessment recommended?

No