



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Item: 8

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 11 November 2025.

Finstown Traffic Management – Review of Implementation.

Report by Director of Infrastructure and Organisational Development.

1. Overview

- 1.1. On 6 December 2022, when considering recommendations from the Development and Infrastructure Committee regarding the Finstown Traffic Management Study, the Council resolved:
 - i. That the impact of the revised speed limits, together with the introduction of speed indication devices, in Finstown, [as detailed above], be reviewed following installation, following which the Corporate Director for Neighbourhood Services and Infrastructure should submit a report, to the Development and Infrastructure Committee in due course.
- 1.2. Traffic counts were undertaken at various locations through Finstown in August 2021, as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report, prior to the extension of 30mph speed limits, and introduction of permanent Speed Indication Devices, and at the same locations in June 2025.
- 1.3. Speeds shown are the 85th percentile speeds, which are the speeds at or below which 85% of vehicles would travel in an unhindered state. i.e. not travelling behind slower traffic.
- 1.4. The speeds, before and after these changes, are as follows:

Location	85th percentile speeds recorded in August 2021	85th percentile speeds recorded in June 2025
West entrance driving into the Village.	38.90mph	29mph
Centre of Village.	34.92mph	31mph
East entrance driving into the Village.	30.38mph	30mph

Location	85th percentile speeds recorded in August 2021	85th percentile speeds recorded in June 2025
A966 at Ouse bridge driving into the Village.	No traffic counts undertaken at location prior to installation.	36mph

- 1.5. The signs show positive effects to slowing traffic with the only uncertainty being on the A966 at Ouse Bridge. However, as no traffic counts were undertaken prior to the installation this may still represent a decrease over time.
- 1.6. The excessive speeds recorded on the A966 at Ouse Bridge have been forwarded to Police Scotland.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:
 - i. Note the 85th percentile speeds recorded prior to, and after the extension of the existing speed limits, and installation of permanent Speed Indication Devices in Finstown, detailed in section 1.4 of this report.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. Speed will continue to be monitored, with any concerns being passed to Police Scotland.

For Further Information please contact:

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Implications of Report

1. **Financial** – Continued maintenance of the Speed Indication Devices will be borne by the Roads Revenue budget.
2. **Legal** – The Council’s monitoring activities assist in meeting its statutory obligation to achieve best value. Should it become necessary to obtain a traffic regulation order, the Council has the power to do so assuming it follows the procedures in the Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999.
3. **Corporate Governance** – None.
4. **Human Resources** – None.
5. **Equalities** – None.
6. **Island Communities Impact** – Not required.

- 7. Links to Council Plan** - The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
- ☒ Growing our economy.
 - ☒ Strengthening our Communities.
 - ☒ Developing our Infrastructure.
 - ☐ Transforming our Council.
- 8. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan** - The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
- ☐ Cost of Living.
 - ☒ Sustainable Development.
 - ☒ Local Equality.
 - ☒ Improving Population Health.
- 9. Environmental and Climate Risk** – None.
- 10. Risk** – Speed Indication Devices lose effectiveness over time.
- 11. Procurement** – None.
- 12. Health and Safety** – Speed Indication Devices appear to be having a positive effect to 85% speeds. Therefore, road safety should be improved.
- 13. Property and Assets** – None.
- 14. Information Technology** – None.
- 15. Cost of Living** - None.

List of Background Papers

None.

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Speed Count Location Plan.

Finstown Traffic Counts

