

Summary of Costs and Benefits of 3 Options for Scottish Road Speeds – The Impact of the 20mph National Default Limit

| Impact | Option Zero. Do Nothing. Keep 30mph limits | Option A: Scottish National Default 20mph limit for Urban Roads (assumes 15% fewer casualties) Reduction in casualties vs Option Zero | Option B: Local Authority by Authority 20mph localism (assumes 50% of councils at 20mph & 15% fewer casualties) Reduction in casualties/costs vs Option Zero |
|--|---|--|---|
| Casualties pa on 30mph roads (base is 2011-2015 ave) | 49 deaths, 823 serious, 5,410 slight 6,282 total | Casualties saved 7 deaths, 123 serious, 812 slight, 942 total | Casualties saved 4 deaths, 62 serious, 406 slight, 471 total |
| Casualty £ pa | £267M cost | £56M saving | £28M saving |
| 5 year casualty £ Saving vs Option Zero | £0 | £280M saving | £140M saving |
| Implementation Comment | | Default sets majority of urban roads to 20mph with LAs able to raise limits on selected roads to 30mph where warranted. | Patchy risk and casualty reduction effects for 'lucky few in a postcode lottery' based on the history of local political support & funding for 20mph in each LA. |
| Inactivity Cost/ Benefits | Health costs of inactivity. This is currently estimated at £1,153M pa based on Public Health England stats for the Scottish population | Assuming a very conservative effect of reducing this by 1% over the whole population the saving is £11M pa or £55M over 5 years | Assuming a very conservative effect of reducing this by 1% over half the population the saving is £5.5M pa or £27.5M over 5 years |
| 5 year casualty and inactivity saving | NA | £335M | £167.5M |
| Direct Costs to Local Authorities (LAs) / Gov't | £0 | Approx. £4.5M from Gov't. Replace 30mph with 20mph signs on entrances to communities and 20/30 signs for any roads left at 30mph. No requirement for repeaters. Plus National engagement and ads £0.5M . In total approx. £1 per head of Scottish population. We ask Transport Scotland to provide accurate costing. | £8.6M for 50% of urban Scottish population outside Edinburgh (1.925M people). Implemented slowly, as funds become available, funded by LAs. (Estimated costs are based on Edinburgh where it cost £2.2M (£4.46 per head) to sign 80% of Edinburgh's roads at 20mph). |
| FYRR and 5 year Benefit to cost ratio | NA | 1,100% FYRR on casualty reduction and 67:1 benefit to cost ratio over 5 years on casualty and inactivity reduction. | 325% FYRR on casualty reduction and 19:1 benefit to cost ratio over 5 years on casualty and inactivity reduction. |
| Comment | Litigation risks from poor air quality and spiralling social care costs. Vulnerable are unprotected. This option also creates the greatest transport and health inequality. | Consistency improves compliance and casualties saved. Potentially hundreds of life years saved due to more physical activity and improved air quality. Dominant option for active travel (heart disease and obesity), lower noise levels, greater social inclusion, greater community cohesion and local business viability. | Benefits of reducing avoidable risks in selected places. Higher levels of activity and exercise & better quality of life, improved air quality vs Option Zero. Lower total benefits and higher total costs than Option A. Takes longer to implement than Option A. |
| 5 yr Summary | Not recommended | Net £330M saved vs Option Zero – The dominant and recommended option | Net £159M saved vs Option Zero, but not as cost effective as Option A. |

This summary by 20's Plenty for Us. www.20splenty.org info@20splenty.org 20's Plenty for Us campaigns for a 20mph limit for most urban roads with exceptions.