

**ROAD SAFETY – (B895 NEWMARKET TO NORTH TOLSTA)
(40MPH SPEED LIMIT) EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2011**

Report by Director of Technical Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT To seek Comhairle approval of a six month extension to the Experimental Order.

COMPETENCE

- 1.1 There are no legal, financial, equalities or other constraints to the recommendations being implemented.

SUMMARY

- 2.1 In August 2008, the Comhairle approved a Traffic Regulation Order which applied a 40mph speed limit on the B895 Newmarket to North Tolsta road through the villages of Newmarket, Tong, Gearraidh Ghuirm, Back, Gress and Tolsta and a 30mph speed limit to the side roads of all the villages in Tong, Back and Tolsta districts. Arising from this, the 30mph limit which at that time applied to the B895 in the villages of Tong and Back would be increased to 40mph.
- 2.2 Although there was general support for the Order, through the statutory consultation process and following further correspondence, four objections to the raising of the speed limit in Tong and Back from 30mph to 40mph remained and, as provided for by the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, the Comhairle proceeded to a Hearing to consider these objections.
- 2.3 On 4 November 2010 the Comhairle authorised the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to implement the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (B895 Newmarket to North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis) (40mph Speed Limit) Order 2009 as originally proposed by the Comhairle, as an Experimental Order for a period of up to 12 months and that the Order be subject to review to enable relevant data to be obtained throughout the period of the Experimental Order to assess the impact of the proposals in practice and thereafter consider the most appropriate provisions for the locality.
- 2.4 The Experimental Order came into operation on 24 January 2011 and expires on 23 January 2012. Due to technical problems with the speed recording equipment, which have only recently been resolved, there has been a delay in collating data to enable an assessment to be made of the impact of the Experimental Order. Speed surveys are to be undertaken during August 2011 which will enable an assessment of findings to be reported to the October Committee series. As there is a risk that a revised Traffic Order will not be in place by 24 January 2012 it is proposed that the Experimental Order be extended by six months. All due diligence will be exercised in having the revised Traffic Order in place by the original timescale.

RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approves a six month extension to the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (B895 Newmarket to North Tolsta, Isle of Lewis) (40mph Speed Limit) Experimental Order 2011 .**

Contact Officer: Donald Macrae, 01851 822664
Background Papers: None
Appendices: None