
Briefing Note: School Signs Initiative

This briefing relates to activities which fall under SOA Outcome 6: People live in safer and stronger communities.

The briefing is for noting.

Summary

An issue raised about apparent lack of co-operation with Police Scotland about erection of road safety sign at school locations.

Further information is available on [\[link to reports on meeting page on council website\]](#) [\[link to organisation's website\]](#)

Key Points for Consideration

As the roads authority the Council are responsible for the erection of signage within the road corridor and all signage erected must comply with The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016 (which came into force on 22 April 2016). For any proposal to erect signs that fall outside of the TSRGD agreement from Ministers via Transport Scotland is required.,. In addition to this, where possible we seek to minimise sign clutter within the road corridor as there is a risk that drivers begin to ignore signs if the area is over subscribed. Please note that while the title to the land that the carriageway and verges occupy may not lie with the Roads Authority, the Roads Authority retain full control over the road corridor.

Key Points for Discussion

The particular signs that Police Scotland purchased for installation near schools etc., while we concede the reasoning behind them is a good one, are non-compliant with the TSRGD. Furthermore, the signs include advertising for private companies and allowing the installation of these signs could, we believe, create a precedent where other companies would seek to install advertising on sign poles and lighting columns.

I understand that advice has been offered regarding alternative siting of the signs, e.g. within fields alongside roads or within school grounds. With the proviso that any required planning permission has been granted and that it does not cause a danger to road users.

Officers from the council's roads team have a good working relationship with local police and it may be that the relatively recent enactment of this legislation has caused the problem in this case. Officers will make sure that the police are aware of the requirements of the legislation to avoid similar situations arising in future.

**For further information please contact: Stuart Watson, Traffic and
Development Manager Tel: 01546 604889**