



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Highways & Transportation
Traffic Engineering Section

SPEED LIMITS

The setting of speed limits is to be in accordance with current Department for Transport (DfT) guidance.

The signed speed limit is the absolute maximum and does not mean that it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of conditions. You must not exceed the maximum speed limits for the road or for your vehicle. See The Highway Code for further guidance.

Leeds City Council is responsible for speed limits on all public roads, except motorways and trunk roads (e.g.. M621, M62, M1) which are the responsibility of the Highways Agency.

The following table summarises the speed limits applicable to road in Leeds.

20mph zones	See Speed Limits – 20mph
20mph limits	
30mph limits	are commonplace in built-up areas with frontage development close to the road and hazards such as junctions and pedestrian crossings.
40mph limits	apply in built-up areas that have fewer hazards than those that would necessitate a 30mph limit. Buildings may be set back further from the carriageway, or only occur on one side of the road. These limits may also appear as a 'buffer' between two other speed limits.
50mph limits	may be suitable on rural or suburban roads that are lightly built-up, or possibly imposed on derestricted lengths with a history of collisions to try and address excessive speeds.
60mph limits	can be applied on dual carriageways that have particular hazards or pass through urban areas.

Speed limits can be introduced in two ways:

- by means of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for speed limits from 20mph to 60mph;
- in a built-up area, a system of street lighting may automatically impose a 30mph speed limit, if the Highway Authority deems it to be appropriate. If not, a higher limit can be applied by a TRO.

Note. Where a 30mph speed limit is imposed by virtue of the presence of street lighting, 'repeater' signs are not permitted by law.

The enforcement of speed limits is the responsibility of West Yorkshire Police.

20mph Speed Limits

20 mph speed limits may be introduced in urban areas only by either:

- The introduction of a 20mph traffic calmed zone, or
- The introduction of a signed 20mph restriction

20mph zones

Must have in place a significant number of speed reducing features which are able to reduce the speed of most traffic in order to sustain average speeds of 24mph throughout the zone. A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is required to give effect to the zone.

Although signed on entry, repeater signs must not be used within the zone, as the limit should be self-enforcing, and the need for Police enforcement will be removed.

Due to the high implementation costs associated with the levels of traffic calming required, priority will only be given to those sites where significant numbers of casualties are occurring. This will inevitably restrict the number of zones but will ensure the effectiveness of those schemes introduced.

20 mph zones will typically be used only as part of Local Safety Schemes, Safer Routes to School schemes, Home Zones or town centre pedestrianisation schemes.

20mph Limits

These can be introduced where traffic speeds are already restricted by natural constraints i.e. the layout and alignment of the road, where existing speeds are already low and traffic calming measures are not needed.

Repeater signs must be used to prevent confusion with 30mph speed limits imposed by virtue of street lighting. As with 20mph zones, a TRO is required to give effect to the limit. LCC's resources will be directed to those sites where injury accidents are occurring.

All requests for 20mph lengths or zones are dealt with initially by the Transport Policy Section of the Development Directorate, Thoresby House, 2 Rossington Street, Leeds LS2 8HD

Whom to Contact

Telephone: Leeds Contact Centre 0113 2224407

By Minicom: 0845 1271113

Email: Highways@leeds.gov.uk

**Write: Highways and Transportation
Thoresby House
2 Rossington Street
Leeds LS2 8HD**