

The Highland Council

Transport, Environmental and Community Services Committee
7 November 2013

Agenda Item	5
Report No	TEC 77/13

Cattle and Deer Grids Policy

Report by Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Summary

This report invites Members to approve the updated Policy for the installation and maintenance of Cattle and Deer Grids as contained in **Appendix A**.

1. Background

- 1.1 The current Policy for the Installation of Cattle Grids was approved by the Roads and Transport Committee on 3 February 1994, and the policy requires to be updated to take account of current practice.
- 1.2 Cattle and deer grids present a significant maintenance liability and we seek to remove grids wherever possible. There are currently over 500 cattle and deer grids on the adopted road network.
- 1.3 Delegated powers are already given to Officers regarding the installation and maintenance of grids on the adopted road network, and the revised policy seeks to clarify the Council's position in relation to the installation of grids on the adopted road which are request by private parties for their own benefit.
- 1.4 In the case of a private party seeking to install a grid on the adopted road for their own benefit, the Policy states that the cost of installation will be borne by the private party, who will also pay a one off charge to cover future maintenance.

2. Policy Amendments

- 2.1 The policy has been updated to take account of current practice.
- 2.2 There are very few gates remaining across adopted roads, and the previous section relating to replacing gates with grids has been removed. Applications for replacing gates with grids will be treated in the same way as for a new grid.
- 2.3 The original charges relating to future maintenance have been updated to take account of RPI, and will be increased annually in line with inflation from 1 April 2014, in line with Council policy. The one-off maintenance charges are set out in the table below.

Cattle/deer grid Type	One-off Maintenance Charge
Single lane cattle grid	£600
Double lane cattle grid	£900
Single lane deer grid	£800
Double lane deer grid	£1,200

2.4 Grids have also been installed historically as part of ring fencing of villages. The Council is no longer able to provide funding for the installation of these grids and applications will be treated as a private party application. The section in the previous policy relating to unfenced approach roads to villages has been removed.

2.5 Where grids are no longer required, they will be removed as resources permit.

3. Implications

3.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

3.3 There are no climate change / carbon clever implications arising from this report.

3.4 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

3.5 There are no risk implications arising from this report.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are invited to approve the Cattle and Deer Grids Policy as contained in **Appendix A**, and to note that the one-off Maintenance Charge will be increase annually in line with inflation, as per the Council's policy.

Designation: Director of Transport, Environmental and Community Services

Date: 25 October 2013

Author: Elizabeth Maciver, Senior Engineer (Asset Management)

Background Papers: 1994 Policy for the Installation of Cattle Grids



Transport, Environmental and Community Services
Policy Statement
Cattle and Deer Grids

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy applies to the installation and maintenance of cattle and deer grids on The Highland Council's statutory List of Adopted Roads.
- 1.2. All grids on adopted roads shall be adopted and maintained as part of the road network.

2. Applications from Private Parties

- 2.1. Where grids on adopted roads are requested by private parties, eg landowners, tenants, for their own benefit, the application shall be considered by the relevant Area Roads and Community Works Manager.
- 2.2. If the application is approved, such grids shall be paid for and installed by the applicants. Any land required for a by-pass will require to be made available at no cost to the Council.
- 2.3. Accepted requests for grids from outside parties will be subject to a single charge for future maintenance (index linked at 1 April 2014) during the life of the grid as follows:-

(i) single track cattle grid	£600
(ii) double track cattle grid	£900
(iii) single track deer grid	£800
(iv) double track deer grid	£1,200

3. Installation

- 3.1. The location and construction of all grids on adopted roads shall conform to the requirements of the Roads Authority.
- 3.2. All grids on the statutory List of Roads require Technical Approval from the Council's Chief Structural Engineer.

4. Removal

- 4.1. Requests for grids to be removed will be considered by the Area Roads and Community Works Manager.
- 4.2. Where a grid is no longer required, it will be removed and the road reinstated. Removal will be subject to the resources available at the time.