

# ROADS SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 7 May 2024

## **Chair:**

Councillor Davie McLachlan

## **Councillors Present:**

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Margaret Cowie (Depute), Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Susan Kerr, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Norman Rae, Councillor Helen Toner (*substitute for Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey*)

## **Councillors' Apologies:**

Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Kenny McCreary

## **Attending:**

### **Community and Enterprise Resources**

S Laird, Engineering Manager; C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services

### **Finance and Corporate Resources**

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; E-A McGonigle, Administration Officer

## **Also Attending:**

### **Scottish Fire and Rescue Service**

P Duncan, Watch Commander, Local Authority Liaison Officer

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## **1 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

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## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of the Roads Safety Forum held on 20 February 2024 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

In relation to Item 3, the School Travel Works/Initiatives report, Councillor Marrs requested further information regarding the decision of the Chair, in consultation with officers, not to consider the West of Scotland Road Safety Guidance at this meeting of the Forum. The Chair and the Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services advised that there was no evidence that the guidance needed to be updated or reviewed at this time.

**The Forum decided:** that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

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## **3 Road Accident Casualty Statistics for 2023**

A report dated 18 April 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the road accident casualty statistics for the Council during 2023. The statistics highlighted that between 2022 and 2023:-

- ◆ the total number of fatal casualties had decreased from 10 to 7
- ◆ the total number of serious casualties was 125 which was an increase of 41 from 2022
- ◆ there were no fatal child casualties during 2023, no change for the fifth year
- ◆ the total number of serious child casualties had increased from 4 to 23
- ◆ the total number of slight casualties had increased from 190 to 238

The figures provided for 2023 were provisional on the basis that the police could add to or amend the records over the coming months. The confirmed figures would be published by the Scottish Government in October 2024 in 'Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2023'.

In February 2021, the Scottish Government published 'Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030', which set out an ambitious long-term goal where no one was seriously injured or killed on Scotland's roads by 2050. Adjusted figures had been sourced from Transport Scotland with regards to baseline figures to fully allow the tracking of the Council's contribution to the national casualty reduction targets. This information was required due to the changes in data collection from 2019 onwards following the introduction of the Collision Recording and Sharing platform (CRaSH) used by Police Scotland to record and collate data. This had resulted in more casualties being classified as serious and had consequently caused a discontinuity in the time series with adjusted figures having to be used.

The statistics for all fatal, serious and slight casualties, including child fatal and serious casualties, within South Lanarkshire from 2014 to 2023 were provided in Appendix A to the report. The 2030 targeted figures were also included. A graph of overall yearly casualty figures had also been provided showing data from 2004 to 2023 in Appendix B to the report.

National targets for specific user groups/ages had been set, as detailed at section 3.5 of the report. Agreement had been made that causation factors relating to those would be investigated and presented to the Forum annually and this information was provided in appendices C to J of the report for the period 2021 to 2023.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the implications thereafter had a significant impact on casualty numbers from 2020 onwards. This would continue to be considered in relation to current trends in travel patterns and frequency.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report.

**The Forum decided:** that the contents of the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 13 June 2023 (Paragraph 4)]*

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#### **4 Police Scotland - Lanarkshire Division Road Safety Update**

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A report dated 18 April 2024 by the Local Authority Liaison Officer, Police Scotland was submitted on national and local road safety campaigns.

The Roads Policing Unit (RPU) and community officers continued to support speeding complaints around South Lanarkshire towns and outside schools. Pop up police had been used to deter excessive speeds. Education and enforcement was used where necessary.

Details were also provided on the following local and national initiatives:-

- ◆ seatbelt campaign which ran from 16 to 22 January 2024
- ◆ mobile phone campaign which ran from 26 February to 10 March 2024
- ◆ vulnerable road users campaign which ran from 6 to 12 March 2024
- ◆ speeding campaign which ran from 20 to 26 March 2024
- ◆ motorcycle campaign which started on 29 March and would run until 27 September 2024
- ◆ an elderly driver awareness event which was being planned in conjunction with partners

Where possible, social media had been used to promote campaigns and raise awareness.

The statistics for road safety and road crime incidents for the period April 2023 to March 2024 were embargoed up to and including 7 June 2024. That information would be circulated to the Forum after that date. Details were provided on notable arrests and recoveries at paragraph 4.3 of the report.

In response to a member's question in relation to what was being done to support parking complaints, the Administration Officer undertook to contact the Police Local Authority Liaison Officer for a response and would provide that information to members of the Forum.

**The Forum decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 20 February 2024 (Paragraph 6)]*

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## **5 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) – South Lanarkshire Area Road Safety Update**

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A report dated 18 April 2024 by the Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was submitted on national and local road safety campaigns.

Details were provided as follows on road traffic incidents attended by SFRS for Quarter 4 (Q4) in 2023/2024 and compared with data for Q4 in the previous year:-

- ◆ there had been an increase of 12 road traffic collisions from 22 in the same reporting period last year
- ◆ those incidents were spread across South Lanarkshire, however, the highest number was recorded in the Clydesdale area which equated to 15
- ◆ there was one fatal incident within South Lanarkshire and this had increased from zero from the same reporting period in the previous year
- ◆ there were 33 non-fatal casualties which was an increase in 4 from the same reporting period last year

Local and national campaigns were detailed at paragraph 4.5 of the report. Details were also provided on Community Action Team Activities in Q4 2023/2024 and on future engagements.

The Local Authority Liaison Officer responded to a member's question in relation to the fatal incident reported in Q4.

**The Forum decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of 20 February 2024 (Paragraph 7)]*

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## **6 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.