

ROADS SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 31 January 2023

Chair:

Councillor Davie McLachlan

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Margaret Cowie (Depute), Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Susan Kerr, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Norman Rae

Councillor's Apology

Councillor Ralph Barker

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Carle, Team Leader; S Laird, Engineering Manager; C Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services; C Smith, Engineering Officer

Finance and Corporate Resources

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

Also Attending:

Police Scotland

Sergeant L Hinshelwood, Local Authority Liaison Officer

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Roads Safety Forum held on 1 November 2022 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Safety Camera Assessment Process

A report dated 5 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Safety Camera Assessment Process.

Safety Cameras Scotland, which managed speed and red light cameras throughout Scotland, comprised 3 Safety Camera Unit areas, namely North, East and West. Safety Cameras Scotland worked with Police Scotland and received funding through a grant provided by the Scottish Safety Camera Programme. South Lanarkshire Council, together with 12 other local authorities, made up the West Safety Camera Unit area.

The Scottish Safety Camera Programme, through targeted camera enforcement and improving driver behaviour, aimed to contribute to Scotland's road safety risk and road safety targets as set out in the Road Safety Framework to 2030. This meant that cameras were sited in the areas in most need, in terms of road casualty reduction and collision reduction potential.

Details were given on:-

- ◆ types of safety cameras used to detect speeding vehicles and non-compliance with red lights
- ◆ the existing 4 fixed, 6 mobile and 1 average speed camera sites within South Lanarkshire
- ◆ short term and flexible safety camera deployments
- ◆ safety camera site selection criteria and process

The current position in relation to consideration of further safety camera sites in South Lanarkshire had been considered by Roads Authorities, Area Safety Camera Managers and Police Scotland at a Stage 2 meeting on 9 November 2022. A small list of potential sites had been reviewed with their road traffic collision history and causation factor trends. Relevant engineering or educational improvements which had been implemented formed significant parts of those discussion and priorities were agreed and established. Consequently, no sites had been taken forward within South Lanarkshire from the 2022 site selection exercise.

A full and detailed discussion took place on a recent fatality on the A726, East Kilbride Queensway and the following points were noted:-

- ◆ the A726 was part of the trunk road network and officers had been in dialogue with Transport Scotland regarding 2 fatalities that occurred last year. The causation factors of those fatalities were not related. Officers would continue to have dialogue with Transport Scotland to establish if there was anything the Council could do to complement their work
- ◆ pedestrians crossed the main roads to avoid the flooded and poorly lit underpasses. Work would commence soon with Transport Scotland on a proposal to upgrade and improve underpasses
- ◆ the concrete walls that replaced railings would have been an appropriate modern containment at the time of construction
- ◆ the Site Selection process for safety cameras was onerous and lots of sites had been identified. The annual Single Site Assessment was in the process of being concluded and would be presented at the next meeting of the Forum

The Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services suggested that it would be useful to invite a colleague from Transport Scotland to a future meeting of the Forum.

Officers responded to a member's question in relation to underestimation of the number of collisions. Due to lack of resource, it was not possible to tackle every location where accidents occurred. Locations that had known evidential causations of accidents were targeted.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 January 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Bikeability Scotland Cycle Training

A report dated 5 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Bikeability Scotland Scheme within South Lanarkshire for the current academic year.

Bikeability Scotland was the brand name for multi-level cycle training in Scotland, designed to give young people the skills and confidence to ride their bikes safely on roads.

The 3 levels of the Scheme formed part of the Scottish Government's Cycle Action Plan for Scotland (CAPS) and aligned to the National Standard for Cycle training developed on behalf of the Department for Transport. Cycling Scotland had responsibility for the administration and development of the programme nationally.

Bikeability Scotland Levels 1 and 2 were co-ordinated and supported by the Council's Traffic and Transportation Section. All primary schools had been contacted to participate within Bikeability Scotland Level 1 and Level 2 training during the academic term 2022/2023. School participation would be collated at the end of the academic school year. Detailed information was also provided on the one-day Bikeability Scotland Instructor training course which was offered to all new or existing school trainers.

Information was also provided on:-

- ◆ programme results from the completed academic term 2021/2022
- ◆ Bikebank – a small fleet of bikes and helmets, previously funded by Cycling Scotland, remained available to individual pupils or for Bike Town staff undertaking Bikeability Scotland pupil cycle training on behalf of the Council
- ◆ the part-time Bikeability Co-ordinator, appointed on a one-year contract on 9 November 2021 who was responsible for promotion of Bikeability Scotland throughout the Council area and provided additional support to schools when required. The post was initially funded by Cycling Scotland's Bikeability Support Plus grant for a year, however, further funding had been received to extend the post by another year. It was anticipated that additional funding would be sought thereafter to ensure continuation of the post

A full and lengthy discussion took place around the fact that fewer schools took part in the Bikeability Scotland Scheme than in the calendar competition. Officers responded to members' questions on this topic and outlined the measures being taken to encourage uptake. As part of the discussion, the Chair agreed to undertake the Bikeability Scotland Instructor training.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 March 2022 (Paragraph 5)]

5 Education, Training and Publicity Initiatives

A report dated 5 January 2023 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on a range of road safety education, training and publicity initiatives being undertaken in South Lanarkshire.

The Chair advised that the annual calendar competition had concluded and the overall winner was Christopher Agnew of St Mary's Primary School, Hamilton.

Members of the Forum were encouraged by the positive messages contained within the report.

Officers responded to members' questions on various aspects of the report and were tasked to:-

- ◆ allow members to view some of the resources used in schools, such as Parking Buddies, at the next meeting of the Forum
- ◆ liaise with colleagues in Education Resources to ensure appropriate messaging was being disseminated in schools around the use of electric scooters. The only place an electric scooter could be used in Scotland was on private land, with the permission of the landowner

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the road safety education, training and publicity initiatives being undertaken in South Lanarkshire, as detailed in the report, be noted;
- (2) that arrangements be made to view some of the resources used in schools at the next meeting of the Forum;

- (3) that, in liaison with Education Resources, appropriate messaging be disseminated in schools around the use of electric scooters; and
- (4) that future road safety education, training and publicity initiatives in South Lanarkshire be supported.

[Reference: Minutes of 30 November 2021 (Paragraph 5)]

6 Police Scotland - Lanarkshire Division Road Safety Update

A report dated 10 January 2023 by the Local Authority Liaison Officer, Police Scotland was submitted on national and local road safety campaigns.

A national 'Get Ready for Winter' campaign had taken place from 31 October to 5 November 2022 where the importance of checking lights on vehicles, tyre treads, windscreen washer fluid levels and ensuring scrapers were available for frost and ice removal was highlighted. Pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders had also been encouraged to ensure they were visible to other road users through the use of reflective clothing and lights.

An update was also provided on the local 'Festive Drink and Drug Driving' campaign which ran from 1 December 2022 to 2 January 2023. The campaign had highlighted the dangers of driving after consuming alcohol and drugs. The campaign complemented the education and enforcement work that Police Scotland conducted every day as part of a partnership response to reduce road casualties. There had been 62 detections for drink or drug driving offences during the local South Lanarkshire campaign.

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

The report provided details on road safety and road crime incidents for the period April to November 2022 and compared with figures for the same period of the previous year. Updated statistics to December 2022 were provided at the meeting. In terms of statistics to December 2022, there was a decrease in most road crimes in the period compared with the previous year, however, there was a 22.4% increase in mobile phone offences.

The Local Authority Liaison Officer responded to members' question on various aspects of the report and, following a member's request, gave an undertaking to establish if there had been any convictions for violations of the new Highway Code rule 'People Crossing the Road at Junctions' in South Lanarkshire during the reporting period.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 November 2022 (Paragraph 8)]

7 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) – South Lanarkshire Area Road Safety Update

A report dated 13 January 2023 by the Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was submitted on national and local road safety campaigns.

Details were provided on road traffic incidents attended by SFRS for Quarter 3 (Q3) in 2022/2023 and compared with data for Q3 in the previous year. There had been an increase of 44% of non-fatal casualties across South Lanarkshire compared with the same reporting period last year and this reflected a return to normal life after the COVID-19 pandemic. SFRS remained committed to ensuring the road network was safe and, where trends were identified, a

proportionate engagement plan would be created and implemented along with partners and the Road Safety Governance Board.

Details were also provided on the following future engagements:-

- ◆ during Q4, Lanarkshire's Community Action Team would continue to deliver the road safety message via the Virtual Reality (VR) based presentations to local high schools, young drivers and third sector groups. Those members of staff would focus their efforts on engaging with young drivers and those identified through partnership working to deliver road safety education
- ◆ the Youth Volunteer Scheme was well underway with the adult instructors now fully trained. 11 young people from across Lanarkshire had been identified to participate in the 3-year rolling scheme
- ◆ the Fire Reach courses were in place and young people across Lanarkshire had been carefully identified to participate in the week's course, with road safety forming an integral part

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 November 2022 (Paragraph 9)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.