

ROADS SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Confero and in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 20 February 2024

Chair:

Councillor Margaret Cowie (Depute)

Councillors Present:

Councillor John Anderson, Councillor Ralph Barker, Councillor Colin Dewar, Councillor Cal Johnston-Dempsey, Councillor Susan Kerr, Councillor Julia Marrs, Councillor Kenny McCreary, Councillor Norman Rae

Councillor's Apology:

Councillor Davie McLachlan (Chair)

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Carle, Traffic and Transportation 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

Police Scotland

L Hinshelwood, Local Authority Liaison Officer

Apology:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

G Tudhope, Watch Commander, 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 21 November 2023 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 20mph Speed Limit Update

A verbal update by the Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services (Community and Enterprise Resources) was given on progress towards the National Strategy for 20mph speed limits.

At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the Forum noted the progress towards the National Strategy for 20mph speed limits. Since that meeting, there had been ongoing discussions with Transport Scotland and the Society of Chief Officers of Transportation Scotland (SCOTS).

The National Strategy for 20mph speed limits aimed to expand them across Scotland and ensure all appropriate roads in built up areas had a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025. A recap of background information was provided as follows:-

- ◆ on 25 February 2021, the Scottish Government had launched Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2030 which had set national targets and measures for casualty reduction
- ◆ Transport Scotland's Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2) had previously committed to develop a National Strategy for 20mph zones that supported a range of policies that would assist those government national outcomes and indicators
- ◆ the 2021 Programme for Government had committed to ensuring all appropriate roads in built up areas had a safer speed limit of 20mph by 2025
- ◆ road safety themed policies previously approved in the Council's 2013 to 2023 Local Transport Strategy (LTS) included supporting and encouraging driving at 20mph or below in residential areas and outside schools

Road assessments had been undertaken against place criteria which had been provided by Transport Scotland to establish which 30mph roads would be considered appropriate for a reduction to 20mph. An initial draft of the assessment had been included in the report to the Forum on 21 November 2023 and had identified a significant number of roads in South Lanarkshire that would change from 30mph to 20mph based on the place criteria.

The 2 options being appraised by the Scottish Government were:-

- ◆ a change in national legislation to the national speed limit in built up areas from 30mph to 20mph. This option removed any decision-making from the Council. From a road safety perspective, this had been the preferred option
- ◆ local authorities considering the results of the place criteria assessments to roll out, where appropriate, 20mph speed limits using Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)

Discussions with Transport Scotland indicated that the second option would be taken forward, whereby local authorities would be left to make decisions on the roll out of appropriate 20mph roads. This would give local authorities flexibility to align resources appropriately and to sense check the results from the place criteria road assessments.

A report would be prepared for a future meeting of the Forum outlining the Council's next steps towards the National Strategy for 20mph speed limits. Officers would work with communities and elected members to gain a better understanding of priority areas. There would also be funding available from Transport Scotland.

The Committee decided: that the verbal update on progress towards the national strategy for 20mph speed limits be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 November 2023 (Paragraph 4)]

4 School Travel Works/Initiatives Paper

A report dated 22 January 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the School Travel Plan programme within South Lanarkshire.

School Travel Plan support was offered to all schools, whether it be their first School Travel Plan development or a review of their current Plan. The School Travel Plan aimed to:-

- ◆ engage and foster more sustainable travel journeys
- ◆ increase walking, cycling and scooting to and from school

- ◆ reduce air pollution and contribute to clearer air quality
- ◆ focus on the safety of the environment within and outwith the school grounds

At present, 82 schools had completed a Travel Plan, with a further 56 currently working towards completion. Some examples of good practice were detailed at paragraph 3.11 of the report, whereby the schools highlighted had worked to raise awareness of road safety and active travel matters within their school communities.

There were many initiatives available to schools to progress their School Travel Plan and those were fully detailed at sections 4 to 7 of the report under the following headings:-

- ◆ Road Safety Through Curriculum for Excellence/Local Initiatives
- ◆ South Lanarkshire Council WOW – Walk Once a Week/Walk on a Wednesday P5 Initiative
- ◆ Cycling Scotland, Cycle Friendly School Fund

The Sustrans Annual Hands Up Travel Survey took place on the second week of September. All educational establishments, including nurseries, were invited to complete the survey on any one day during the survey week. Details for the 2022 Survey were provided at paragraphs 7.4 to 7.6 of the report and this included a comparison of South Lanarkshire data to national data.

The Sustrans Annual Hands Up Travel Survey for 2023 had taken place during the week commencing 11 September 2023 and the preliminary results would be available in early 2024. The finalised data would be published around May 2024.

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

There followed a lengthy discussion around School Travel Plans in light of the ongoing secondary school transport consultation. In response to a member's request that the Forum review the Road Safety West of Scotland (RSWoS) guidance for the assessment of walking routes to school at its next meeting, officers:-

- ◆ confirmed that the secondary school transport consultation was ongoing with colleagues from Education Resources and was being conducted under the current guidance
- ◆ emphasised that it was vital to ensure assessments were conducted on a consistent basis
- ◆ suggested that the report on assessment to walking routes to schools using the RSWoS guidance, which had been considered by the Forum in February 2016, could be updated for the next meeting. However, there would be no suggestion to review or amend this guidance as it was currently being applied in the consultation

Following the lengthy discussion, the Depute Chair undertook to discuss the matter with the Chair, in conjunction with officers, and a decision would be taken as to whether it was appropriate to consider the Road Safety West of Scotland guidance at the next meeting of the Forum.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that, in consultation with the Chair, a decision be made around the appropriateness of considering the West of Scotland Road Safety guidance at the next meeting.

[Reference: Minutes of 31 January 2023 (Paragraph 5), 13 June 2023 (Paragraph 7) and 25 February 2016 (Paragraph 6)]

5 Priority Road Safety Engineering Projects 2024/2025

A report dated 23 January 2024 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the proposed priority road safety initiatives 2024/2025.

The Council's Local Transport Strategy 2013 to 2023 identified a number of road safety policies and actions to contribute towards the achievement of the 2030 national casualty reduction targets.

The Council targeted resources and improvements where 3 or more injury accidents had occurred in the previous 3 years, or on routes that had an injury accident rate greater than the national average for that type of route. As a result, the Council delivered annual prioritised road safety improvements at identified accident locations/routes/areas.

On 21 November 2023, the Forum was advised of the methodology used to identify where road accidents were occurring in South Lanarkshire and how the information was used to prioritise identified accident locations and then prioritise the Capital Programme of Road Safety Engineering Works. Section 4 of the report provided an update on the recently completed Route Action Plan Assessments and details on the recently concluded annual Single Site Assessments.

Focus would also be placed on the following vulnerable road user groups/ages to coincide and contribute to the targeted casualty reductions sought within the new Framework:-

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| ◆ children | ◆ road users aged 70 and over |
| ◆ pedestrians | ◆ road users aged between 17 to 25 |
| ◆ cyclists | ◆ areas of highest deprivation |
| ◆ motorcyclists | |

Information was provided on:-

- ◆ the completion of route action plan assessments for rural class A and B routes, which had resulted in 5 locations, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, being identified for investigation
- ◆ the completion of single site assessments, which had resulted in 5 locations, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, being identified for investigation
- ◆ a range of further actions spanning education, engineering, enforcement and encouragement which would be considered in conjunction with partners, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report

The projects identified would be developed further and, where works or initiatives would be taken forward, they would be prioritised through the Scottish Government grants Cycling, Walking and Safety Streets and Road Safety Improvement Fund as well as the Council's Roads Investment Plan for improved infrastructure. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) had advised that its capital grant had been reduced to zero and, therefore, it was unclear if any funding would be available in 2024/2025.

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that the priority projects identified would be progressed and implemented in line with available funding.

[Reference: Minutes of 1 March 2022 (Paragraph 4) and 21 November 2023 (Paragraph 3)]

6 Police Scotland - Lanarkshire Division Road Safety Update

A report dated 29 January 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:-

- ◆ National Speed campaign which ran from 16 to 29 October 2023
- ◆ Get Ready for Winter campaign which ran from 23 October to 4 November 2023
- ◆ Drive Insured which ran from 20 to 26 November 2023 with 13 detections
- ◆ Brake Road Safety which ran from 19 to 25 November 2023
- ◆ Festive Drink Drive campaign which ran from 1 December 2023 to 2 January 2024

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 December 2023 and compared with figures for the same period of the previous year. In terms of statistics to December 2023, there was a decrease in most road crimes in the period compared with the previous year, however, there was a 47.5% increase in mobile phone offences and a 17.2% increase in seat belt offences.

Trends had been identified with elderly drivers/pedestrians and 3 of the 6 fatal accidents recorded involved elderly pedestrians. In November/December 2023, there were 4 serious road traffic collisions (RTCs) involving elderly drivers. An elderly driver awareness event was being planned, in conjunction with partners, to coincide with the Vulnerable User campaign in March 2024.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 November 2023 (Paragraph 6)]

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

A report dated 1 February 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 3 (Q3) in 2023/2024 and compared with data for Q3 in the previous year:-

- ◆ there had been an increase of 2 road traffic incidents from 36 in the same reporting period last year
- ◆ those incidents were spread across South Lanarkshire, however, the highest number was recorded in the Hamilton area which equated to 16
- ◆ there was one fatal incident within South Lanarkshire and this had decreased from 2 from the same reporting period in the previous year
- ◆ there were 44 non-fatal casualties, with 22 of those occurring within the Hamilton area
- ◆ 6 of the non-fatal casualties resulted in victims going to hospital with a potential serious injury

Details were also provided on the following future engagements in Q4:-

- ◆ Lanarkshire's Community Action Team would continue to deliver the road safety message via virtual reality based presentations to local high schools, young drivers and third sector groups
- ◆ the Youth Volunteer Scheme was well established. All adult instructors were fully trained and 11 young people from across Lanarkshire had been identified to participate in the 3-year rolling scheme
- ◆ SHIELD (**S**afety at **H**ome and on the road, gained from, **I**nformation, **E**ducation **L**earning and **D**emonstrations) courses were now in place within South Lanarkshire for Community Payback in which attendees learned about road safety

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 21 November 2023 (Paragraph 7)]

8 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.