

ROADS SAFETY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held via Microsoft Teams on 22 June 2021

Chair:

Councillor Julia Marrs

Councillors Present:

Councillor Janine Calikes, Councillor Margaret Cowie, Councillor Mark Horsham, Councillor Davie McLachlan, Councillor Lynne Nailon, Councillor Jared Wark

Councillors' Apologies:

Councillor Robert Brown, Councillor Collette Stevenson, Councillor Margaret B Walker

Attending:

Community and Enterprise Resources

S Laird, Traffic and Transportation Engineer; C Smith, Engineering Officer

Education Resources

D Hinshelwood, Support Services Manager

Finance and Corporate Resources

N Docherty, Administration Assistant; E A McGonigle, Administration Officer; S Terry, Web Journalist

Also Attending:

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

B Adams, Watch Commander, Local Authority Liaison Officer; A Harris, Crew Commander

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 17 November 2020 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

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

3 Road Accident Casualty Statistics for 2020

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the road accident casualty statistics for the Council area during 2020. The statistics highlighted that between 2019 and 2020:-

- ◆ the total number of fatal casualties had decreased from 13 to 10
- ◆ the total number of serious casualties had decreased from 98 to 85
- ◆ there were no fatal child casualties during 2020, no change from 2019
- ◆ the total number of serious child casualties had decreased from 13 to 7
- ◆ the total number of slight casualties had decreased from 320 to 221

The figures provided for 2020 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 2021 in 'Reported Road Casualties Scotland 2020'.

The use of the new information technology system, CRaSH, by Police Scotland had resulted in more casualties being classified as serious rather than slight. It was, therefore, not possible to compare serious casualty figures from 2019 to 2020 to those recorded in previous years. Appendices A to E of the report provided information on injury classification, progress towards target figures for each category of road accident and causation factors for all accidents and casualties involving pedestrians and cyclists.

In February 2021, the Scottish Government published the new road safety framework, '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. The Council was awaiting further information from Transport Scotland and had recently been invited to participate in a Local Partnership Forum which would detail how South Lanarkshire Council could contribute towards the revised approach.

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

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 November 2020 (Paragraph 3)]

4 Capital Programme of Road Safety Engineering Projects 2020/2021

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Capital Programme of Road Safety Engineering Works for 2020/2021.

The capital funding received from the Scottish Government Grant for Cycling, Walking and Safer Routes, together with resources received from Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) and the Council's Roads Investment Plan, totalling £1,700,000, would be used to undertake a number of initiatives which would contribute to achieving casualty reduction targets.

Details were provided of specific initiatives which would be progressed in 2020/2021.

The Forum decided: that the Capital Programme of Road Safety Engineering Projects for 2020/2021, as detailed in the report, be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 November 2020 (Paragraph 4)]

5 School Travel Plans

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the School Travel Plan programme within South Lanarkshire.

The aim of School Travel Plans was to encourage more sustainable modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, which would reduce congestion outside schools, increase safety and improve health and environmental awareness, whilst setting active travel patterns for life.

At present, 71 schools had completed a Travel Plan, with a further 65 currently working towards completion.

School Travel Plan support had continued to be offered to schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and many schools had made good progress. The Council's School Travel Plan Co-ordinator contacted all schools on a regular basis and engaged with the school community to assist with this process. The Co-ordinator had also contacted schools in response to enquiries and correspondence received by Roads and Transportation Services that related to school journey matters.

There were many initiatives available to schools to progress their School Travel Plan and those were detailed in the report.

Reference was also made to Mossneuk Primary School, East Kilbride, winners of a badge competition as part of the WOW scheme, and to the primary schools that had provisionally placed in the Sustrans Big Pedal competition. The Chair, on behalf of the Forum:-

- ◆ congratulated Mossneuk Primary School on their success
- ◆ thanked all schools which had participated in the Big Pedal competition and passed on congratulations to those schools which had been successful winners

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

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the School Travel Plan programme be noted; and
- (2) that the development of future School Travel Plans be supported.

[Reference: Minutes of 8 August 2019 (Paragraph 4)]

6 Spaces for People – 20mph Town Centres and Schools

A report dated 3 June 2021 by the Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources) was submitted on the Spaces for People 20mph Town Centre and Schools projects.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government had launched its Spaces for People grant funding that supported local authorities to introduce temporary measures that would support social distancing and active travel messages, as well as providing an outside environment where this could take place.

The Council had submitted 4 funding applications, with a total of £1.200 million being awarded. This included £0.750 million for the outdoor school environment and £0.100 million for town centres with a phased implementation of measures being identified to support active travel and road safety benefits due to reduced vehicular speeds.

Investigations had taken place in conjunction with Education Resources regarding social distancing requirements and how to facilitate active travel during the pandemic for all 148 schools. Initial considerations included the provision of cones and barriers to aid social distancing requirements and local signage to address local issues. A second phase of measures changed advisory 20mph speed limits to mandatory 20mph speed limits at 88 school-based locations, as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

Town centres, as a core element of local communities, required consideration to be given on how to support people to make essential trips by active travel and follow social distancing rules. Each area was unique in terms of infrastructure and potential for temporary measures, similar issues faced by smaller neighbourhood centres. Details were provided on interventions to encourage local shopping. A second phase of measures would introduce 20mph cordons close to the following town centres:-

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| ◆ Strathaven | ◆ Uddingston |
| ◆ Bothwell | ◆ Carluke |
| ◆ Larkhall | ◆ Lanark |

The Forum decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that the 20mph Spaces for People projects, as detailed in the report, be supported.

[Reference: Minutes of the Community and Enterprise Resources Committee of 15 September 2020 (Paragraph 14)]

7 Police Scotland - Lanarkshire Division Road Safety Update

A report dated 17 May 2021 by the Local Authority Liaison Officer, Police Scotland was submitted on national and local road safety campaigns.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Policing Campaign Calendar had been suspended, however, officers continued to target the issues that would have been addressed. The campaigns involved engagement and proportionate enforcement and social media was used to launch events and provide information to the public which included:-

- ◆ national mobile phone, seat belt and speed campaigns
- ◆ local road safety on the motorway network
- ◆ Operation Closepass, promoting driver behaviour in relation to cyclists

Details were provided on road safety and road crime incidents for the period April 2020 to March 2021, with a comparison given of the same period in the previous year. However, the data could not be truly compared due to the impact of COVID-19 and the initial reduction of traffic on the roads in 2020/2021.

Details were also provided on a new driver early intervention scheme for new and nearly new drivers aged 16 to 25. Social media would be used to publicise the scheme which included an online roads safety input developed by the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS).

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

[Reference: Minutes of 17 November 2020 (Paragraph 9)]

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

A report dated 9 June 2021 by the Local Authority Liaison Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) was submitted on national and local road safety campaigns.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SFRS had suspended all road safety engagement sessions but had continued to use both local and national social media channels to promote road safety where appropriate.

Details were provided on road traffic incidents attended by SFRS for the period April 2020 to March 2021, with a comparison given of the same period in the previous year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the reduction in traffic on the roads, the figures could not be truly compared.

Details were also given on:-

- ◆ the Road Safety Governance Board
- ◆ an online presentation developed by SFRS to complement Police Scotland's new driver early intervention scheme and progress with virtual reality headsets

In response to a member's question in relation to VR training, the Local Authority Liaison Officer advised that this would be taken forward at an appropriate time.

The Forum decided: that the report be noted.

Councillors Calikes and Cowie left the meeting during consideration of this item of business

9 Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.