

<p>COUNCILLOR STUART WHITTINGHAM CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT</p>	<p>CABINET MEMBER REPORT 4TH JUNE 2018 WIRRAL ROAD SAFETY PLAN</p>
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REPORT SUMMARY

An effective and safe transport system is essential to support access to employment, education, leisure and recreation activities and to support economic growth and regeneration. Safe travel on our road network is essential to our everyday lives whether we are drivers, passengers, riders, pedestrians or cyclists. Improving safety for our communities is essential for the quality of life of our residents and for the economy of Wirral. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Road Safety Strategy was approved by the Combined Authority in July 2017.

This report seeks approval of a Wirral Road Safety Plan which builds on the vision of the City Region strategy and sets out Wirral's commitment to ensuring that the risk to all road users is reduced. The Wirral Road Safety Strategy supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan and the Transport Pledge to "ensure that Wirral has safe, affordable, well maintained and efficient transport networks for residents to access community services, enjoy our leisure facilities and commute to work".

This is a key decision and affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member is requested to:

Approve the Wirral Road Safety Plan which supports the delivery of the Wirral 2020 Plan vision and demonstrates how Wirral will contribute to the overall vision as set out in the LCR Road Safety Strategy.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 Wirral Council and its partners are committed to improving road safety for all roads users. To support the delivery of the Wirral Plan we need to ensure that:

- people of all ages are able to travel safely by all modes of travel,
- we support and maximise the efficient movement of people and goods to support growth and investment - making our roads safer supports this by reducing collisions and associated delays,
- we enable people to travel safely using active modes such as cycling and walking to improve our environment and the health of our residents.

1.2. The development of a Wirral Road Safety Plan demonstrates our commitment to improving road safety to ensure we work to minimise the risks to all roads users in our Borough.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 **Option 1 – Do-nothing.** The Combined Authority approved the Liverpool City Region Road Safety Strategy in July 2017 and there is no requirement for districts to develop their own supporting strategies. Producing a Wirral specific plan demonstrates commitment and enables more detail to be provided at a local level.

2.2. **Option 2 – Do Something** Develop a Road Safety Plan as part delivery of service but without Cabinet Member endorsement. Cabinet Member endorsement ensures that the Council's commitment to improving road safety is clearly set out and reinforces that the responsibility for road safety lies across the whole Council and wider partnership.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Under Section 39 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act, local authorities have a statutory duty to “take steps both to reduce and prevent accidents”. As a result Local Authority Partners must:

- Prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety;
- Carry out studies into accidents arising out of the use of vehicles on roads within their area, and take appropriate measures to prevent such accidents; and
- Take measures to reduce the possibilities of road accidents when building new roads.

3.2 Wirral's Road Safety Plan supports the delivery of the LCR Road Safety Strategy and the Wirral Plan a 2020. Merseyside Road Safety Partnership's

vision is set out in the LCR Road Safety Strategy 2017-2020 which was approved by the Combined Authority in July 2017.

3.3 Improving safety for our communities is essential for the quality of life of our residents and for the economy of Wirral. The Wirral Council Plan: A 2020 Vision, published in June 2015, sets out a series of 20 pledges which we, along with our partners will work to achieve by 2020. The Council's Plan for 2020 is based around three key themes:

- protecting the most vulnerable
- driving economic growth
- improving the local environment

3.4 An effective and safe transport system is essential to support access to employment, education, services, leisure activities & driving economic growth. Safe travel on our network is essential to our everyday lives – and includes those who visit, live or work in Wirral, whether as passengers, drivers, riders, pedestrians or cyclists.

3.5. Wirral will continue to strive to become the safest community in the UK however Wirral Council cannot achieve our vision without help from others, including our partners (existing and new). Most notably, the vision cannot be achieved without the help and co-operation of all those who use the road network.

3.6 Wirral Council and its partners are committed to improving road safety for all and are committed to reducing the number of injury collisions on our roads to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. No one should be harmed or affected by road traffic collisions going about their daily life. Our ethos is 'Shared Roads, Shared Responsibility'.

4.0 WIRRAL'S ROAD SAFETY PLAN

4.1 Wirral's Road Safety Plan is attached as Appendix 2. The key messages of the Plan are summarised below:

- It supports the delivery of the overarching Liverpool City Region Road Safety Strategy & Transport Plan for Growth, whilst reflecting on priorities from the Wirral perspective
- It supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan and the Connecting Wirral Transport Strategy
- It acknowledges that Wirral Council is not solely responsible for casualty reduction and that in order to improve road safety residents, employers and numerous partners must play a role
- It seeks to promote a partnership approach for all road users to using the roads safety slogan "Shared roads, shared responsibility"
- Initiatives and schemes are based on the "3 E's" of Education, Enforcement & Engineering
- The initiatives and measures detailed are based on current casualty data but will be reviewed on an ongoing basis

4.2 On the 23rd January 2018 the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee received the report of the Road Safety Plan Scrutiny Workshop. The Chair introduced a report which set out the findings and recommendations arising from a scrutiny workshop held in December 2017 to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's Road Safety Plan.

4.3. The Scrutiny Workshop had been convened on 13 December 2017. The workshop was conducted through a presentation made by senior officers followed by a question and answer session to consider Wirral's Road Safety Plan and supporting evidence. The key findings and recommendations were detailed in the final report of the workshop which was presented to the Business Overview and Scrutiny Meeting.

4.4. The Scrutiny Workshop report feedback is attached as Appendix 1 and is summarised as follows:

- *A target for KSI's has not been included;*

This is acknowledged however including a target could be interpreted as accepting that the Council are satisfied as having a certain number of people killed or seriously injured.

- *The plan would be delivered in partnership, for example Merseyside Police, whilst facing reduced budgets;*

This challenge is noted however by working in partnership with the ethos "Shared road, shared responsibility" it is hoped that we can use resources as effectively and efficiently as possible.

- *That the plan delivers a number of the Wirral Plan pledges for 2020;*

The delivery of the Plan is integral to the success of the Connecting Wirral: Transport Strategy and as such the Wirral 2020 Plan.

- *The plan includes a strong approach to education;*

Children remain easier to target in an educational setting however the road Safety team are also working with adults in business settings via the 'Mind Your Business' programme, and have also recently received additional funding to work with taxi and van drivers.

- *A commitment to engage drivers at an early age;*

Working with driving instructors to ensure young drivers are driving safety and not just taught to pass the test is seen as a positive way to ensure good driving habits from an early age.

- *As the KSI target is seen as challenging, there is the need for Members to be updated on the ongoing performance of this target;*

Performance reporting to the Transport Strategy Steering Group and the annual performance update to Members of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- *That consideration should be given to adopting a more 'Safe System Approach' to road safety.*

This relatively new approach ensures that roads should be safe for all users and accepts that lapses of concentration and errors of judgment are normal human behaviour. This is in comparison to a more traditional approach which focusses on road users being responsible and learning rules which they follow. Officers are planning to speak to Bristol Council and other local authorities who have taken this approach to see if any lessons can be learnt.

- 4.5 Following consideration of the feedback from the Scrutiny Workshop, the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended that:

Recommendation 1 - The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport to consider all issues identified in paragraph 4.4 of this report before approving Wirral's Road Safety Plan.

A response to the issues raised is included in Paragraph 4.4 of this report.

Recommendation 2 - As part of the performance reporting of the Wirral Plan, an annual update should be provided to the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure Members have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and its partners in relation to the delivery of the Road Safety Plan.

This is actioned as part of the annual Wirral Plan reporting process and in addition quarterly reporting of the Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) indicator is presented to the Transport Strategy Steering group.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The delivery of the Road Safety Plan will be managed using existing revenue and capital budgets. Where opportunities exist additional resources will be sought from external sources.
- 5.2. It is acknowledged that improving road safety is not the sole responsibility of the Council and therefore the wider partnership including organisations such as the Police, Fire and Rescue and NHS are key partners in the success of the strategy and this will have implications for their financial planning.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Under Section 39 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act, local authorities have a statutory duty to “take steps both to reduce and prevent accidents”.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

7.1 The ethos of the strategy is “Shared road, shared responsibility” and as part of this approach we will ensure wherever possible that our resources are used as part of a wider partnership approach to achieving our collective road safety ambitions.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

8.1 Failure to address the challenges and risk associated with road safety will have a negative impact in our borough as a whole and a devastating impact on individuals and families.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

9.1 The Road Safety Plan has been subject to scrutiny by the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 23rd January 2018.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes and impact review is attached

REPORT AUTHOR: **Julie Barnes**
Lead Commissioner Transport
telephone: (0151) 606 2365
email: juliebarnes@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Wirral Road Safety Plan Scrutiny Review Report

Appendix 2 - Wirral Road Safety Plan

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 rd January 2018.