

**Safer and Stronger Communities  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**20 March 2020**



**County Durham and Darlington Road  
Safety Strategy – Consultation**

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**Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To provide the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee with background information in advance of a presentation on consultation of the County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Strategy.

**Executive summary**

- 2 The consultation seeks comment from the Committee on the proposed strategy (Appendix 2) in relation to approaches for its delivery by partner agencies and overcoming challenges to raise awareness of road safety initiatives with hard to reach groups.

**Recommendation**

- 3 Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within this report and presentation and provide a response to the consultation.

**Background**

- 4 The County Durham and Darlington Casualty Reduction Forum has produced a road safety strategy to provide a delivery framework for maintaining and improving road safety in County Durham and Darlington. The Forum's membership includes, Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service, Highways England, and Darlington Borough Council.
- 5 The overall aim of the strategy is to reduce the severity and number of people injured on our roads. It looks at all road users, but focuses on key groups who have been identified as particularly at risk from injury:

- (a) younger drivers (17-24 years old)
- (b) older drivers (over 55 years old)
- (c) children (up to 16 years old)
- (d) cyclists
- (e) at work drivers
- (f) motorcyclists
- (g) pedestrians

6 The Strategy aims to:

- (a) ensure a better coordinated approach between all partners, so we can support each other
- (b) create checks to make sure things are happening correctly and introduce a delivery plan that we can monitor frequently
- (c) update and amend programmes and initiatives based on the evidence and data we collect
- (d) make sure we help and support all road user groups to ensure successful education, knowledge building, awareness raising and promotion

7 The Strategy is supported by a delivery plan that details actions to be taken by partners to address the key road user groups. Performance measures within the strategy are to be monitored on annual basis against casualty statistics, key road users and risk-taking behaviours and reported to the Safe Durham Partnership, respective Cabinet Members and delivery partners.

### **Overview and Scrutiny activity**

8 Road Safety is a topic of great interest to the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee has undertaken overview and scrutiny reviews on Road Safety and Young people, part time 20mph schemes and held a focused meeting on young drivers and the fatal four causation factors for collisions. In addition, within its response to consultation on the Safe Durham Partnership Plan, the Committee requested Road Safety be included within the plan.

9 The Committee has also undertaken activity within the development of the road safety strategy and held working group meetings in May and

October 2019. The working group meeting in May provided an overview session for the development of a strategy and the meeting in October considered presentations on road casualty statistics and partnership activity.

- 10 Following the October meeting a response from Cllr Heather Liddle, Chair of the working group to the Road Safety manager and respective Cabinet Portfolio holders. The response provide comment for the proposed strategy to include a link deprivation, climate change, focus on targeted groups and further intelligence on incident data, promotion of campaign activity and work that is delivered through a co-ordinated partnership approach.
- 11 Paul Watson, Road Safety Manager will be in attend the Committee's meeting to deliver the presentation that is attached in appendix 3 and invite comment from the Committee to consultation on the strategy. Further details on the consultation can also be accessed from the following link <http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/22773/Consultation-on-road-safety-in-the-county>

## **Conclusion**

- 12 The report and presentation provide an opportunity for Members to consider and comment on the road safety strategy

## **Background papers**

- None

## **Other useful documents**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

The report invites comment on consultation of the Road Safety Strategy.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Climate Change**

The report includes actions to reduce the environmental impact that motorised vehicles have on air quality and promote walking and cycling.

### **Crime and Disorder**

The report makes reference to approaches to enforcement activity to contribute to road safety within County Durham.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.