

## **Lancashire County Council**

### **Scrutiny Committee**

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 16th October, 2015 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston**

#### **Present:**

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

#### **County Councillors**

A Barnes	A Schofield
C Crompton	J Shedwick
J Gibson	C Wakeford
Mrs L Oades	D Watts
D O'Toole	G Wilkins
C Pritchard	

County Councillor J Gibson replaced County Councillor M Parkinson at this meeting.

#### **1. Apologies**

None received.

#### **2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

None disclosed.

#### **3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 September 2015**

In relation to item 4, Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Update, County Councillor Oades pointed out that her request for further work to be carried out on the existing enterprise zone at Warton, as progress had been below the expected level, had not been recorded in the minutes.

**Resolved:** That, subject to the point above being noted, the minutes of the last meeting held on 18 September 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. Road Safety Report**

The Chair welcomed Clare Platt, Head of Service, Health, Equity, Welfare and Resources; Jackie Brindle, Safer Travel Manager; Chief Inspector Damien Kitchen, Lancashire Constabulary; Tony Crook, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service; County Councillor John Fillis, Cabinet Member for Highways; and Daniel Herbert, Highways Manager to the meeting.

Clare Platt and Jackie Brindle presented a report on the latest road safety statistics for Lancashire providing details of the number of people who had been killed or seriously injured on the roads in Lancashire set against the national picture.

The report provided details of the latest road safety statistics for Lancashire which focussed upon the identification of current issues and priorities, set out the action being taken and outlined plans to address the rising casualty levels. The context of the road safety budget was also delivered, along with an update on the 20mph speed limit programme.

The officers also presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee which illustrated road safety statistics for Lancashire and various initiatives that were designed to aid reduction in road casualties.

Members were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

The Committee raised concerns with regard to the issue of dangerous parking outside schools. Officers advised that interventions and resources developed in response to an upsurge in complaints had led to multi-agency interventions and a toolkit of resources in development which included the provision of A-boards to schools.

It was agreed that Officers would provide the Committee with the contact details of the Safer Travel Team and the 'six point methodology' used to identify road safety interventions.

Whilst the Committee welcomed the latest road safety statistics for Lancashire, it was suggested that it would be helpful to receive further context and details of the location and causes of road accidents. In response, the officers referred to the District Action Plans available on the county council's website and included a spot map of the geographical location of road accidents in Lancashire. However, it was acknowledged that further analysis of the statistics was required and this would be addressed by the recruitment of a road safety analyst. It was explained that the road safety analyst was anticipated to be in post within the next few months.

The Committee welcomed the various initiatives underway to increase road safety including the 'Wasted Lives' young driver education programme and suggested that this and other initiatives should be publicised more widely.

Members also requested analysis to take place around the potential for extending the Community Road Watch Scheme to allow for the monitoring and recording of vehicle speeds at times when there was a high number of speeding vehicles.

In response to concerns raised in relation to slow moving vehicles, Chief Inspector Kitchen advised that drivers of slow moving vehicles would be expected to adhere to the Highway Code directive and show courtesy to other road users by pulling over when and where possible, to let other traffic pass.

The Committee was also informed that it was planned that police resources would be allocated to enforce the speed limit in 20mph zones, and there were various initiatives to encourage compliance. These included the use of SPIDs (Speed indicator devices) and the Community Road Watch Scheme. Councillor Oades questioned the success of the 20mph speed limit scheme and commented that it would have been more cost effective to limit the implementation of the scheme to those residential areas that would benefit from this approach.

Discussion taken place around the Lancashire Partnership for Road Safety (LPfRS). County Councillor Fillis explained the aims and the role of the LPfRS and noted that they delivered a co-ordinated and cohesive approach to road safety pan-Lancashire. It was noted that the LPfRS planned to oversee the development of projects such as the digital speed camera upgrade and conveyed that consideration should be given to the introduction of average speed cameras at a number of locations across Lancashire. It was also noted that the new speed awareness cameras would have the capacity to identify whether a driver was using a mobile phone or wearing a seat belt.

Councillor O'Toole commented that local knowledge was important and that the local community should be consulted prior to the implementation of fixed cameras, making particular reference to a camera in West Lancashire that was deemed to be in the wrong location. Officers advised that mobile cameras could be deployed in response to concerns raised by the local community. Councillor Fillis agreed to review the location of one fixed camera in West Lancashire.

The Committee queried whether there was any correlation between the high frequency of road accidents in Preston and Lancaster and the number of overseas students attending the city's universities, who may not necessarily be aware of the rules on Lancashire's public highways. The officers advised that the high numbers were not necessarily attributable to the student population. However, the county council and its partners would continue to work with both universities to encourage a collaborative approach to education and engagement in respect of road safety.

In respect of cyclists, the Committee was informed that it was proposed to undertake further analysis to evaluate casualty data and the subsequent identification of specific behaviours that may be contributing factors. It was also noted that a social media campaign, specifically targeting cyclists and their risk taking behaviours, was proposed to be initiated.

Officers advised members of the methodology behind the prioritisation process for highway engineering solutions, as reported in the PowerPoint presentation, and reiterated that they would circulate the information to members.

Further concerns were raised with regard to traffic issues associated with parking outside schools. It was suggested that schools should make more provision in terms of on-site parking, especially where there were plans to extend schools. There was a call for more collaborative thinking between planning, schools and the highways service to address the issues. Officers agreed to bring these views to the attention of the Council's Development Management Group.

The Committee was advised that there were various initiatives available to address dangerous parking outside schools. These included the introduction of waiting restrictions, zig-zag lines and the opportunity for schools to develop a travel plan. The Committee was advised to contact the Safer Travel Team for advice if they had any concerns regarding this.

The Committee expressed the view that more needed to be done to encourage children to walk to school. The Safer Travel Manager advised that her team worked with schools to encourage more active travel to school by raising awareness of obesity and other health issues associated with a lack of exercise.

In response to concerns raised with regard to the restructure of the county council's services, County Councillor Fillis invited Members to contact him if they encountered any difficulties with highways or highways related issues and he would subsequently consult the relevant Director and Head of Service.

Councillor Schofield suggested that it would be helpful if members were consulted on any highway and road safety decisions affecting their electoral division.

The committee raised various questions with regard to the statistics for road accidents and were advised that;

Whilst there was some variation, most accidents occurred during the morning and evening commute;

There were more incidents involving cyclists and motorbikes at the weekend;

Casual data showed that mobile phone usage was not to a contributory factor in road accidents. However, it was acknowledged that it was a road safety issue.

The KSI (Killed or Seriously Injured) statistics were available on the Councillors C-First website.

It was noted that a further report on road safety would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

**Resolved:** That the Committee note the approach to road safety in Lancashire and the progress made in reducing road accident casualties.

## **5. Work Plan and Task Group Update**

**Resolved;** That the work plan and task group update be noted.

## **6. Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Friday, 13 November, 2015, at 10:00am at the County Hall, Preston in Cabinet Room 'B'.

I Young  
Director of Governance, Finance  
and Public Services

County Hall  
Preston