

ENVIRONMENT AND ATTRACTIVE CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
19th OCTOBER 2009

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW 2009/10 – EVIDENCE GATHERING

Report of the Chief Executive

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP5: Attractive and Inclusive City

CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4: Improving Partnership Working to Deliver ‘One City’.

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider evidence from Mr Jeremy Forsberg, Communications Manager with Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative in relation to Committee study into Traffic Issues and Network Management.

2. Background

2.1 On 18 June 2009, the Committee agreed to undertake a policy review on issues relating to traffic issues and network management in the city.

2.2 The Committee also agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group on this issue to help undertake research. The Group comprises Councillor E Gibson (Chair), Councillor John Kelly and Councillor Peter Woods. An initial meeting of the Group will be held on 8 October 2009. The Group will provide progress reports on their work in order that it can feed into the final report of the Committee.

2.3 At the meeting, Members agreed to consider the following themes:-

- (a) issues relating to road safety including the Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative and 20mph speed limit zones outside schools and in residential areas;
- (b) car parking problems around schools and other hotspot locations and potential solutions;
- (c) traffic flows through the city on major routes such as the Southern Radial Route, A19 Corridor and Chester Road.

2.4 In examining these themes the Committee will be required to consider the following issues:-

- national legislative framework governing speed restrictions and parking around schools and residential areas;
- review the current position of the Council with regard to the introduction of 20mph zones;
- consider the implications for road safety of introducing 20mph zones and the advantages and disadvantages;

- link with the national strategy for improving road safety and casualty reduction
- consider the existing position with regard to the enforcement of speed limit and parking zones around schools;
- establish what traffic calming measures are already in place outside of schools;
- consider the approach of enforcement and the balance between enforcement, education and engineering solutions
- seek the views of users and potential users;
- compare good practice of neighbouring local authorities in relation to determining the appropriateness of enforcing 20mph speed limit zones outside of schools;
- consider traffic flows through the city on major routes such as the Southern Radial Route, A19 Corridor and Chester Road.

2.5 As part of the evidence gathering process, Mr Jeremy Forsberg, Communications Manager, Northumbria Road Safety Initiative (NRSI) has been invited to the meeting to speak to discuss the work of the NRSI and their contribution to promoting road safety with the city, with a particular emphasis on the issues being considered by the Committee in its policy review.

2.6 Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative was set up in 2003 to help reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. Cameras included in the initiative are located at collision hotspots. Money raised from fines are reinvested to cover running costs and support driver education initiatives.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are recommended to consider the evidence provided as part of their study.

Background Papers

Local Transport Plan 2006-11
Sunderland City Council Parking Strategy

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond (0191 561 1006)
james.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk