

TITLE OF REPORT: Council approach to roads and highways – evidence gathering session – road safety

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SUMMARY

This evidence session will consider the road safety responsibilities and associated delivery strategies of Gateshead Council and Northumbria Police.

Background

1. Vision 2030 sets out the 6 Big Ideas for Gateshead. Transport relates closely to the themes of “City of Gateshead”, “Sustainable Gateshead” and “Active and Healthy Gateshead”.
2. The Tyne and Wear Local Transport Plan, which sets out the transport policy framework for Gateshead, identifies three main challenges for the transport network:
 - Supporting economic development and regeneration;
 - Addressing climate change;
 - Supporting safe and sustainable communities.
3. Policy CS13 of the Gateshead/Newcastle Core Strategy seeks the enhancement and delivery of an integrated transport network to support sustainable development and economic growth through:
 - Improving equality of access to transport for everyone;
 - Protecting and enhancing pedestrian routes , cycle networks and Rights of Way;
 - Ensuring new development is located and designed to promote sustainable travel choices, minimise unnecessary car trips, and connect safely to the network.

Statutory Duties

4. Local Authorities have statutory duties relating to road safety set out in:
 - The Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 39)
 - Take steps to reduce accidents.
 - Prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety
 - Carry out studies into road traffic accidents
 - Take measures to prevent such accidents.

- The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Section 122)
 - Secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic
- The Traffic Management Act 2004 (Section 16)
 - Secure the expeditious movement of traffic on and efficient use of the road network.

The police are a key delivery agency for local (and national) road safety. Roads policing supports and complements road safety education and engineering initiatives. It discourages and detects illegal and dangerous and careless behaviour on the road, identifies offenders and helps to educate, and change the attitudes of, road users. It also prevents other forms of crime perpetuated on the highway.

Fire and Rescue services also have statutory duties relating to road safety.

Local Public Health Services also deliver road safety services.

Purpose of session

4. This evidence session is the third of four looking at the role of the Council and its partners in roads and highways, and considers issues associated with road safety and the prevention of road traffic incidents from a Council perspective and from the perspective of Northumbria Police. The format of the session will be an initial presentation followed by an opportunity to ask questions and express views on the evidence presented. Council officers from the Development, Transport and Public Protection and a senior police officer will be present.
5. Key lines of enquiry to consider include:
 - Road traffic incidents involving injury –summary of national and local picture. How the associated data is collated and how robust is it? The effect on communities of road crashes and casualties.
 - Gateshead Council – road safety responsibilities and delivery strategies. Engineering. Education training and promotion. Enforcement. Partnership working.
 - Northumbria Police/ PCC – road safety responsibilities and delivery strategies. Speed management and other ongoing initiatives and issues with a particular Gateshead focus. Partnership working.

Recommendations

6. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to
 - Provide their views on the evidence presented.

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