

Item 9 (ii)

Under Standing Order 12.3 the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience, Kevin Deanus, moved a proposal. The proposal was as follows:

That the motion below by Will Forster be referred to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for the purpose of consideration and making recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council for decision.

This Council notes that:

- Road collision statistics in Surrey have hardly changed over the last ten years.
- In 2021 24 people were killed and 647 were seriously injured.
- The effects of a road traffic collision can have a physical, emotional, social and economic impact on everyone involved.
- In financial terms the cost of road collisions in Surrey was approximately £250 million in 2021.

This Council further notes that:

- Vision Zero is a set of principles and policies aimed at eliminating serious injuries and fatalities involving road traffic. It shifts responsibility for crashes from road users to the designers of the road system - if one occurs, it is up to authorities to ensure that it does not happen again.
- Vision Zero ambition has already been adopted by comparable authorities such as Essex, Kent and Oxfordshire County Councils.

This Council calls on the Cabinet to:

- I. Adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach to road danger reduction.
- II. Work closely with partners and stakeholders to take a whole system approach, working together on infrastructure, behaviour, technology and legislation to achieve this change.
- III. Set a target date for there to be zero fatalities and severe injuries on Surrey’s roads.
- IV. Embed Vision Zero in all relevant Surrey County Council policies, including, but not limited to, implementing the fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4).
- V. Instruct officers to bring a paper to Cabinet within six months to address how these points will be achieved.

Will Forster made the following points:

- Noted that the motion sought for the Council to commit to agreeing that one day it would have a road safety policy where no one is killed or seriously injured on Surrey’s roads, following in the footsteps of other local authorities.
- Questioned why in the twenty-first century, in the UK, in Surrey a huge number of people were killed or seriously injured on Surrey’s roads, that number had largely been unchanged for ten years.

- Stressed that the Council needed to agree that it was unacceptable and would have such a policy, designing out accident black spots.
- Noted that in referring the motion to the select committee, it would not look at whether such a policy should be enacted, but it would look at the detail of how to enact such a policy, the exact timetable and resource needed to meet that ambition.

In speaking to his proposal, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Community Resilience:

- Noted that Vision Zero followed the principle that it was neither inevitable nor acceptable that anyone should be killed or seriously injured when travelling; he was sure that every Member would support that principle.
- Noted that the aim of Vision Zero was to achieve a highways system with no fatalities or serious injuries involving road traffic, that approach started in the 1990s in Sweden and had been adopted across the UK; those local authorities had set different targets of achieving that for example, 2041 in London and 2050 in Kent.
- Noted that in Surrey 53.4% of those tragically killed or seriously injured were from the county, that showed that a partnership approach of all partners at the regional, national, and international levels was vital.
- Highlighted that the Council's Chief Fire Officer on 1 March 2023 became the Road Safety Lead for the National Fire Chiefs Council.

Will Forster confirmed that he was in support of the referral of the motion to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.

The proposal to refer the motion was put to the vote and received unanimous support.

Therefore, it was **RESOLVED** that:

The motion be referred to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee for the purpose of consideration and making recommendations to the Cabinet or the Council for decision.