

Monday 4 December 2023

## **HIGHWAYS SERVICE BRIEFING ON ROAD SAFETY AND VISION ZERO MOTION**

Purpose of report: To brief Members of the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee on the Original Motion regarding Road Safety and Vision Zero submitted to the meeting of the County Council on 23 March 2023.

### **Introduction:**

1. Will Forster submitted a motion to a meeting of the County Council held on 23 March on the topic of road safety and Vision Zero. It was resolved that this 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.
2. This report provides a briefing from the Highways and Transport Service to the Select Committee in response to the points raised in the Motion. Each clause within the Motion is responded to in turn below.

### **Adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach to road danger reduction.**

3. Surrey County Council’s Highways and Transport Service agrees with the need to adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach, noting that this is a commitment already included within the Surrey Transport Plan ([LTP4](#)). To deliver on this commitment, a new draft Vision Zero road safety strategy has been developed in collaboration with Surrey Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and National Highways who are working together through the Surrey RoadSafe Partnership.
4. The draft road safety strategy is scheduled to be presented to the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee on 4 December. This scrutiny will enable the comments of the Select Committee to be taken into consideration when the road safety strategy is presented to Cabinet on 19 December. Cabinet will be asked for approval to proceed with a public and stakeholder consultation on the draft strategy starting in January for a period of ten weeks.

**Work closely with partners and stakeholders to take a whole system approach, working together on infrastructure, behaviour, technology and legislation to achieve this change.**

5. The draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy has been developed collaboratively by all the organisations that form the Surrey RoadSafe Partnership, that collectively are responsible for improving road safety in Surrey. The draft strategy adopts the international best practice Safe Systems approach that puts people at its centre, coming from the belief that every road death or serious injury is preventable. It is built upon these main principles:
  - Human beings make frequent mistakes that lead to road collisions;
  - The human body by nature has a limited ability to sustain collision forces with known tolerance to injury thresholds; and
  - It is a shared responsibility between stakeholders (road users, road managers, vehicle manufacturers, etc.) to take appropriate actions to ensure that road collisions do not lead to serious or fatal injuries
6. A Safe System approach has five pillars that work together to minimise risk, namely:
  - Safe speed
  - Safe road users and behaviour
  - Safe roads and streets
  - Safe vehicles
  - Post collision response
7. The work under these pillars will be underpinned by data, research evidence and evaluation so we know what is working and what we need to do to reduce road casualties.

**Set a target date for there to be zero fatalities and severe injuries on Surrey's roads.**

8. The draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy includes the vision for there to be zero fatalities and severe injuries on Surrey's Roads by 2050. There is an interim target of a 50% reduction in people killed or seriously injured (KSI) by 2035 (compared to a baseline average of 2019 and 2022). This means we are aiming for a reduction from 758 to 375 KSIs by 2035.

**Embed Vision Zero in all relevant Surrey County Council policies, including, but not limited to, implementing the fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4).**

9. Our [LTP4](#) includes a commitment to develop a Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy and to work towards 20 mph speed limits in residential areas and shopping streets. The objectives of the draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy meet this commitment and emphasises the need to reduce the risk of collisions involving vulnerable road users and reduce speeds to make walking, wheeling, and cycling safer, easier and more attractive. In doing so, it will also reduce carbon emissions, air and noise pollution, thus supporting the objectives of [Surrey's Climate Change Strategy](#). It will improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Surrey and those using Surrey's roads, thus supporting the objectives of [Surrey's Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) for improving community safety.

**Instruct officers to bring a paper to Cabinet within six months to address how these points will be achieved.**

10. Officers are presenting the new draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy to Cabinet on 19 December, seeking approval to proceed with public and stakeholder consultation beginning in January 2024 and running for ten weeks.

#### **Conclusions:**

11. A new draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy will be presented to Cabinet on 19 December 2023, seeking permission to proceed with public and stakeholder consultation beginning in January 2024. The strategy was developed in collaboration with key partners and follows the best practice Safer Systems approach. It contains a vision and an interim target to work towards zero fatalities and serious injuries. The draft strategy is aligned with and supports the objectives of County Council's LTP4, Climate Change Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
12. Therefore, all of the points contained within the Motion on Road Safety and Vision Zero tabled on 23 March 2023 have been addressed, albeit slightly later than the six-month deadline proposed in the motion.

#### **Recommendations:**

13. A summary of the recommendation for each resolution in the motion is detailed in the table below:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Service recommendation</b>
Adopt a Vision Zero “Safe System” approach to road danger reduction.	A new Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy has been drafted and will be published for public and stakeholder consultation in January 2024, subject to approval by Cabinet on 19 December 2023.
Work closely with partners and stakeholders to take a whole system approach, working together on infrastructure, behaviour, technology and legislation to achieve this change	A new Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy has been drafted in collaboration with key partners and follows the Safe System approach.
Set a target date for there to be zero fatalities and severe injuries on Surrey’s roads	The new draft Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy includes a vision for there to be zero fatalities and serious injuries on Surrey’s roads by 2050. It includes an interim target for there to be a 50% reduction in KSIs by 2035 (compared to a baseline average of 2019 and 2022). This means we are aiming for a reduction from 758 to 375 KSIs by 2035.
Embed Vision Zero in all relevant Surrey County Council policies, including, but not limited to, implementing the fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4).	The new draft Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy meets the commitment in the LTP4 to create such a strategy. The new strategy is aligned with and contributes to the objectives of the County Council’s Climate Change and Health and Wellbeing strategies.
Instruct officers to bring a paper to Cabinet within six months to address how these points will be achieved.	Officers are presenting the new draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy to Cabinet on 19 December. That report will seek approval to proceed with public and stakeholder consultation beginning in January 2024 and running for ten weeks

<b>Select Committee Recommends</b>
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14. The Service recommends that the Select Committee responds to the motion as follows:

The Communities Environment and Select Committee recommends that Surrey County Council notes that:

- i) A new draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in December 2023 to seek

permission to proceed with public and stakeholder consultation beginning in January 2024.

- ii) A new draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy will also be presented to the Select Committee on 4 December to enable their comments to be taken into consideration by Cabinet.
- iii) The strategy was developed in collaboration with key partners and follows the best practice Safer Systems approach, inclusive of a vision and an interim target to work towards zero fatalities and serious injuries.
- iv) The new draft Surrey RoadSafe Partnership Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy is aligned with and supports the objectives of County Council's LTP4, Climate Change Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- v) All of the points contained within the original Motion on Road Safety and Vision Zero tabled on 23 March 2023 have been addressed, albeit slightly later than the six-month deadline proposed.

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**Report contact**

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**Sources/background papers**

[Agenda item - ORIGINAL MOTIONS - Surrey County Council \(surreycc.gov.uk\)](#)

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