

## CABINET- 23 JULY 2024

### CABINET RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS SELECT COMMITTEE

Item under consideration: Surrey RoadSafe Vision Zero Road Safety Strategy 2024 to 2035

#### Recommendations:

That the Communities Environment and Highways Select Committee:

- I. Supports the Vision Zero Roadsafe Strategy in broad terms and the consultative approach that is being taken but notes the public concern about whether the impact of this strategy will succeed and its likelihood of meeting the target to reduce KSIs by 50% by 2035 (758 to 375). Notes that this will be addressed in future communications and engagement plans to better explain the policy to the public.
- II. Expresses concern at the consultation results specifically related to speed limits and lack of clear message/result and supports future work to improve consultation methodologies.
- III. Recommends more detailed targets are produced to monitor progress and ensure impact including a *delivery plan* with key deliverables aimed at reducing deaths and KPIs.
- IV. Recommends appropriate prioritisation of funding and sufficient resources to deliver the strategy.
- V. Recommends that supporting communication and outreach addresses the public perception (raised in the public consultation) that fixing potholes and improving roads would have a greater impact on road safety and highlights the Councils highways improvement programme.
- VI. Recommends revisions to the strategy to address the comments raised by the Committee in discussion to clarify the role of the local Councillor in 20mph scheme proposals and the process for local engagement (including parish

council involvement) and to amend Annex 5 accordingly. This should clarify that a pragmatic/flexible approach can be taken to local consultation.

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### **Cabinet Response:**

The Cabinet is very grateful for the work of the Select Committee in assisting in the development of the Surrey RoadSafe Vision Zero Strategy. This has included a private session of the Select Committee with witnesses from Surrey Police, Surrey Fire and Rescue, and officers from Surrey County Council in September 2023, followed by scrutiny of the first draft strategy in December 2023 prior to public consultation, and further consideration at the recent meeting of the Select Committee on 17 July 2024. Together this represents a significant body of work that the Cabinet is appreciative of.

The support from the Select Committee for the proposed additional communications work to explain our approach to 20 mph speed limits is welcomed. It is acknowledged that more communications work is required to explain the benefits of 20 mph speed limits and to explain that Surrey's approach is not a blanket roll out, and instead schemes will be implemented only after careful consultation with local people, focussed primarily on schools, residential areas and town centres where the needs of people walking, wheeling and cycling are more important.

Communications work will also take place alongside our major maintenance programme that will highlight the positive impact that this will have on road safety for all road users.

Once the Strategy is approved and launched it is envisaged that the Surrey RoadSafe Partnership will take the lead on developing an action plan with metrics and milestones for delivering the proposed road safety measures. This will be subject to scrutiny in the first instance by the Surrey RoadSafe Board.

Cabinet acknowledges the Select Committee's recommendation for appropriate prioritisation of funding and sufficient resources to deliver the strategy. Discussions are taking place regarding the future level of resources and funding that will be allocated to implement road safety initiatives. This will have to be weighed up against other priorities and commitments for investment across the Highways Service.

Officers will be happy to amend Annex 5 setting out the engagement and consultation process to ensure that local members are involved in the process from the outset, using a pragmatic and flexible approach, and to highlight the need for Parish Council's to be consulted.

**Matt Furniss**

**Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth**

**23 July 2024**