

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

The Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee met on 24 November 2010.

Present: Councillor Stogdon (Chairman)
Councillors Belsey, Dowling, Fawthrop, Freeman and Rodohan

Also present: Councillor Lock, Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

1. Scrutiny Review of Road Safety in East Sussex

1.1 The Committee has completed its Scrutiny Review of Road Safety in East Sussex. A copy of the Committee's full report has previously been circulated to all Members and is available on request from Andy Cottell (Tel: 01273 481955).

1.2 At its meeting on 24 November 2010, the Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee examined the evidence of the Scrutiny Board report which provided a detailed insight into the delivery of road safety in East Sussex and areas for improvement. The report acknowledged that many aspects of road safety, such as the future funding and partnership arrangements, were still under discussion. The following recommendations are presented on the understanding that they will require a flexible interpretation and response to take account of the evolving circumstances.

1.3 The Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee of 24 November 2010 **recommends** to the County Council that –

1.3.1 Local targets for road safety should be developed for East Sussex to promote a robust debate amongst partners about how best to use our combined resources to reduce KSIs further. Any future road safety targets must be clearly linked to the initiatives being put in place to achieve them.

1.3.2 Information should be provided to Members and residents to explain: (a) why funding will be reduced for conventional road safety engineering schemes (such as pedestrian crossings), and (b) the benefits of a 'whole route approach'. The information should include pointers and assistance to help residents consider alternative self-help solutions.

1.3.3 Police enforcement operations, such as Operation Triangle, should ensure that all possible benefits are realised, including for example: (a) following up and taking action for all violations; and (b) using the data collected to help build more accurate profiles of those most likely to be involved in road crashes.

1.3.4 Publicity and support for Operation Crackdown should be given a boost in East Sussex. Dealing with the resulting increased volume of reports will require managing public expectations about the response they can expect and how the data is to be used. If necessary, the police should highlight the most serious violations it wants the public to report.

1.3.5 Diversion courses for drivers committing relatively minor offences should be continued and expanded in Sussex to include mobile phone usage violations (providing that consistency of approach across the whole of Sussex can be achieved). Additionally, the results of DfT research into the value of such courses in reducing KSIs should be carefully monitored and the scheme improved accordingly.

1.3.6 A safety camera operation should be continued in East Sussex. A pan Sussex camera agreement should continue if it is cost effective, but the contribution from East Sussex should be in proportion to the number of cameras being operated in the county.

1.3.7 Road safety data collection and analysis work, as currently carried out by the SSRP, should continue to be undertaken and developed at a pan Sussex level in order to inform priorities both locally and across the area.

1.3.8 The East Sussex Casualty Reduction Steering Group should own and develop the future road safety strategy for East Sussex and adopt a strategic commissioning approach towards the management and provision of all road safety initiatives. A County Council road safety officer champion will need to provide active leadership to the Group for this to be effective.

1.3.9 The relationship between East Sussex County Council and the SSRP needs to change fundamentally to one where the SSRP is 'commissioned' to undertake specific activities, such as the safety camera operation or road casualty data collection and analysis, that are best carried out at a pan Sussex level.

1.3.10 The Lead Member for Transport and Environment should continue to work with our partners to identify activities best undertaken at pan Sussex level and to agree a funding arrangement that reflects the proportion of those activities occurring in East Sussex.

[See also report of the Cabinet, paragraph 3, page 15]

RICHARD STOGDON
Chairman

24 November 2010