

**Report to:** Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety  
**Date of meeting:** 20 July 2017  
**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport  
**Title:** Road Safety Audit Policy  
**Purpose:** To seek approval of a revised policy

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to approve the revised policy for Road Safety Audit set out as Policy Summary PS5/3 in Appendix A

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### **1. Background Information.**

1.1 The Lead Member for Transport and Environment approved a policy setting out how Road Safety Audit is conducted on roads for which the County Council is the Highway Authority in July 2006. The Department for Transport has published revised national guidance and it is appropriate to review and update the local policy in the light of that new standard, adjusted as necessary to take account of local conditions.

### **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The current policy document is prescriptive, requiring Road Safety Audit to be carried out in line with the national guidance, setting out only a limited number of exceptions where the requirements are relaxed. The national standard has been developed to set out the process to be carried out on the heavily trafficked, high standard trunk road network and, whilst it is appropriate for some schemes implemented in East Sussex, it is disproportionate for the many smaller scale schemes that are implemented on the local road network. The national standard is not statutory for use on the County road network and some schemes undertaken are considered to have too minor an effect upon road users to warrant the full implementation of the national standard.

2.2 The revised policy, shown in Appendix A, sets out the requirement for Road Safety Audit to be undertaken for all schemes, except like for like maintenance schemes, on the local road network. The detailed process for undertaking audits no longer forms part of the Policy Statement. This allows a more flexible approach whereby changes in national guidance and improvements in recognised good practice can be quickly adopted into the Road Safety Audit processes.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 The current policy for Road Safety Audit needs to be updated following revisions to the national guidance. It is necessary that Road Safety Audit policies and procedures conform to best practice in this field. Adopting the revised policy set out in Appendix A will ensure that this is done in the best interests of all highway users and the County Council.

RUPERT CLUBB  
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

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### LOCAL MEMBERS

All

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**LEAD MEMBER – COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY**  
**POLICY SUMMARY**

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|---|---|
| <b>ROAD SAFETY AUDIT</b>  | <b>PS5/3</b>  |
| <p><u>Purpose of Policy</u></p> <p>To define the Policy for Road Safety Audit on roads for which the County Council is the Highway Authority</p>  |   |
| <p><u>Specific Policies</u></p> <p>The County Council requires that Road Safety Audits or Road Safety Assessments are conducted for all schemes on roads for which it is the Highway Authority. The Department for Transport has published a standard for Road Safety Audit on Motorways and Trunk Roads in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges. This standard is not statutory for use on the County road network and some schemes undertaken are considered to have too minor an effect upon road users to warrant the full implementation of the national standard. Road Safety Audits and Assessments will be undertaken in accordance with the following Policy Statements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All highway improvement schemes on the County road network, except like for like maintenance schemes, will be subject to an audit or assessment by a road safety specialist who meets the training and experience standards set out in the national standard.</li> <li>2. The construction of new roads or large schemes affecting a wide area or heavily trafficked roads will be audited to the national standard.</li> <li>3. The Road Safety Team will maintain a working practice, based on the current national standard and recognised best practice, which sets out the process which will be followed for the safety audit or assessment of all other schemes promoted by the County Council.</li> <li>4. The working practice will be peer reviewed and periodically updated to ensure that it always reflects current best practice in road safety.</li> <li>5. Road Safety audits or assessments will be conducted by a member of the Road Safety Team or commissioned from a suitable external consultant who must be required to meet any standards set out in the current working practice.</li> <li>6. Schemes promoted by other organisations and submitted for approval by the County Council as highway authority must be accompanied by a road safety audit to the national standard or as set out in the East Sussex Road Safety Audit Policy for Development.</li> </ol> |   |
| <p><u>Supporting Statement</u></p> <p>The County Council is committed to the reduction of the number of road traffic casualties on our road network. Road Safety Audit is an essential procedure to ensure that no additional hazards are built into the existing highway network. However, some schemes undertaken are considered to have too minor an effect upon road users to warrant the full implementation of the national standard.</p>   |   |
| <p><u>References – Further Information</u></p> <p>Lead Member for Transport and Environment – Agenda Item 8<br/> Lead Member for Communities and Safety – Agenda Item<br/> East Sussex Road Safety Audit Policy for Development</p>   | <p><u>Date of Approval</u><br/> 24.07.2006<br/> -</p> |