

Report to: Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment

Date of meeting: 16 October 2017

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Road Safety Audit Policy for Developments

Purpose: To seek approval for the “Road Safety Audit Policy for Developments” to be adopted policy for developers and their agents.

RECOMMENDATION: The Lead Member is recommended to approve the use of the “Road Safety Audit Policy for Developments” as a policy document of the highway authority for assessing the safety implications of development proposals in East Sussex.

1 Background Information

1.1. Road Safety Audit is the independent, systematic assessment of a highway improvement/alteration scheme to identify safety hazards, recommend mitigating action and record subsequent responses to those recommendations.

1.2. Currently not all planning applications that, in the opinion of East Sussex County Council, require a Road Safety Audit are submitted with one, which can lead to delays in the planning process. Occasionally, developers/applicants have also resisted providing a Road Safety Audit at the planning stage as currently there is not a requirement to do so. This policy will address the matter.

1.3. The objective of the Road Safety Audit Policy for Developments (Appendix 1) is to ensure that the road safety implications of all highway schemes supporting development, including those subject to future adoption by the County Council, are fully considered for all users of the highway. It is also necessary to fully consider risks to those working on the highway, and to ensure that proposals are compliant with current statutory regulations. The Road Safety Audit Policy will help to minimise safety risks on the highways of East Sussex for all users.

1.4. This Policy sets out the County Council's procedure for the consideration of developer proposals requiring the support of a Road Safety Audit.

1.5. This Policy highlights the importance of the safety audit process in support of a planning application and identifies when an audit is required and the process involved.

1.6. This Policy will only apply to roads under the control of the County Council and will not relate to works being proposed on roads under the responsibility of Highways England.

2 Supporting Information

2.1. This Policy supports national guidance in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (Volume 5, section 2 HD 19/15) and is required to preserve the safety of all road users using the public highway. The County Council requires the procedures set out in the current national guidance to be followed subject to the departures set out in the policy.

2.2. Road Safety Audits will be required for all ‘major’ planning applications that include any of the following:

- Alteration to an existing highway
- Intensification of use of an existing access. Intensification is generally defined as 50 or more additional vehicle movements per day. However it is recommended that clarification is sought from the County Council where a proposal involves the intensification of an existing access as other issues such as collision data, visibility and geometry would need to be considered.

- Formation of a new access,
- Off-site highway improvements,
- New residential estate roads where a through route is created, where a bus route is created or where the road serves access to a school or other major community or retail facility.
- For all other planning applications that include proposals that do not meet recognised standards.

(‘major’ applications are defined as: residential development of 10 units or more or 0.5 ha or more when the numbers are unknown; and commercial development of 1,000 sq.m. or more or 1 ha or more)

2.3. Once the Policy has been approved, we will request that Local Planning Authorities (who have been consulted on this Policy but have not commented) include the need for a Road Safety Audit on relevant applications in their Local Validation List. Such lists stipulate supporting documentation required for different types of planning application. Planning Authorities may decide not to validate a ‘major’ planning application if a Road Safety Audit is required, in accordance with the policy, but is not provided.

2.4. Road Safety Audits will not normally be required, for minor applications, if guidance set out in Manual for Streets or Design Manual for Roads & Bridges is achieved. However, the County Council will reserve the right to request a Road Safety Audit on any size proposal where it considers there to be potential safety issues that need to be assessed.

2.5. It will be the responsibility of the developer to commission an independent audit team to consider the safety implications affecting their scheme. The County Council will require all Road Safety Audit teams to include at least one team member who has an industry recognised accreditation or qualification.

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 Assessing road safety implications of a planning application for a development is a key aspect of considering planning applications. This policy document has been developed based on the latest national guidance regarding Road Safety Audits to ensure that, where appropriate, suitable Road Safety Audits are provided as part of the planning application. This will allow any safety implications to be fully assessed before any planning consent is granted. This will help to reduce safety risks on the highways of East Sussex for all those who use them.

3.2 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to approve the use of the “Road Safety Audit Policy for Developments” (Appendix 1) as a policy document of the highway authority for assessing the safety implications of development proposals in East Sussex.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None