

**Report to:** Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

**Date of meeting:** 16 March 2018

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Road Safety Policies

**Purpose:** To seek approval of the recommendations to update the road safety policies

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to approve the revised policies for Road Safety set out as Policy Summaries PS5/01 – PS5/11 in Appendix 1 and approve the recommendations in respect to existing policies as set out in Appendix 2.

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## **1. Background Information.**

1.1 In recognition of the changing needs of road users, the advancements in the industry and the need to reduce the impact on the environment the guidance available to road safety practitioners is constantly reviewed by the Department for Transport (DfT). The guidance is updated as resources within the DfT permit. In addition to the updates to interim guidance the DfT recently undertook a complete review of the existing approach to traffic signing and the legislation supporting it. They subsequently published new regulations for signing which came into force on 22 April 2016.

1.2 The existing East Sussex County Council road safety policies are now out-dated. While some policies have been revised and approved more recently than others, all have been superseded by new legislation and/ or national good practice guidance. It is therefore appropriate to review and update all local road safety policies in the light of the new regulations and guidance, adjusted as necessary to take account of local conditions.

1.3 Following review, a number of policies have been identified as redundant as they are now covered by national legislation and may therefore be rescinded. The content of some existing policies is now included in national guidance. Retention of this content is an unnecessary duplication and retaining it in policy documents may hinder the delivery of local solutions where flexibility in application of the regulations is permitted. This detail has therefore been removed from the policies that have been redrafted, (revised policies are included as Appendix 1 with the original policies included in Appendix 3).

1.4 Where practices are not covered by national legislation or guidance it is considered necessary for policies to be in place to assist in discretionary decisions. Having a standard procedure in place ensures consistency in application. It is up to the traffic authority to justify the decisions they make on the roads they are responsible for. Approved policies and processes will provide officers with support in decision making and in the event of challenge.

1.5 In rationalising the road safety policies it is considered appropriate to renumber all road safety policies so that they are under a single series and in a logical sequence, (see Appendix 4 for a revised list of road safety policies). The existing numbering system has a number of gaps where policies have been rescinded previously, (see Appendix 2 for full list of current transport policies including detailed explanation for the recommendations in respect to each policy document included in this review).

1.6 The existing policy for cycling, (PS05/02), will be renumbered PS04/02 as part of this review. This policy will now be managed by the Strategic Economic Infrastructure (SEI) Team as it forms part of the overall cycling and walking strategy. The policy will therefore be removed from the road safety series of policies.

1.7 The existing policy documents have been cross-referenced and it has been identified that highway policy statements PS4/27 (Events signing on lamp posts in urban areas) and PS8/05 (Posts on highway verges) make reference to existing road safety policies PS4/10b (Provision of traffic signs – temporary local direction signs) and PS4/21 (Control of parking on verges) respectively. As the Road Safety Team propose to rescind these policies as part of this review, East Sussex Highways have confirmed that they will be removing these references as resources permit.

1.8 Consultation has been carried out with East Sussex Highways and East Sussex County Council Parking and Strategic Economic Infrastructure Teams who may be affected by this road safety policy review. An Equalities Impact Assessment summary report in respect to this policy review is included in Appendix 5.

1.9 Approved Road Safety policies will be added to the East Sussex County Council website. We will also provide links on our website to national legislation and guidance, as referred to in the policy documents, where appropriate.

## **2. Supporting Information**

2.1 The current policy documents are unnecessarily prescriptive and duplicating good practice advice set out in national guidance. Removing this detail from the policy statements allows the Council to have a flexible approach and the ability to quickly adopt changes as they are introduced nationally.

2.2 To support officers when considering various road safety practices and to ensure fairness and consistency the Road Safety Team will maintain a Traffic Signs and Road Markings Working Practice, based on current national standards and recognised best practice, which sets out the process which will be followed when local discretion is permitted.

2.3 The revised policies, shown in Appendix 1, set out policy statements specific to East Sussex County Council practices.

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

3.1 The current road safety policies need to be updated following revisions to the national legislation and guidance. Adopting the revised policies set out in Appendix 1 and accompanying working practice will ensure that the Road Safety Team's work is undertaken in the best interests of all highway users and the County Council.

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### LOCAL MEMEBERS

All

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None