

Report to Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

10 March 2022

Subject:	Strategic Road Safety Plan Review Scope
Director:	Director of Borough Economy Alice Davey
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1 Recommendations



- 1.1 Consider and agree the scope for the Strategic Road Safety Plan Review.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board has agreed to carry out a review of the Strategic Road Safety Plan. The scope document (appendix 1) sets out the rationale and suggested way forward for the review working group to review and refine.
- 2.2 Following recent a number of incidents within the borough, residents had expressed the need for the Council to update its current provision and provide traffic calming and road safety schemes as a preventative measure. Consequently, the Board considered it necessary to investigate these issues.
- 2.3 The scope document sets out the proposed project plan which includes a range of methods to gather evidence including

customer focus groups, working group inquiry sessions and use of social media to find out more from stakeholders and residents about what they want and what they think about current provision.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Strong resilient communities – It is vital to ensure that the Council has an effective Strategic Road Safety Plan to ensure the correct measures and provisions are in place to ensure safety. This would benefit whole communities, local neighbourhoods, families and creates a cohesive borough.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods – The review will enable the Board to gain an understanding of the issues faced by residents in terms of road safety. The Board will be able to analyse data and evidence considered through the review process to make informed recommendations, so residents can live a borough that is coordinated and responsive.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 On 18th January 2022, a motion was unanimously passed at the full meeting of Council calling for the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board to conduct a review into the current Strategic Road Safety Plan. Given recent political and public interest, the Board recommended that a review be conducted into the plan as this would enable the Board to capture resident’s concerns and also make effective recommendations to ensure that the health and wellbeing of residents remain at the highest priority of the Council.
- 4.2 Sandwell’s Strategic Road Safety Plan 2017-2022 sets out the Authority’s road safety strategy, contains the findings of in-depth road traffic casualty analysis across the borough and outlines the provisions currently in place within the borough. This Plan complemented the Government’s latest road safety statement –

Working Together to Build a Safer Road System – and embraced their Safe Systems approach in setting out Sandwell’s strategy.

- 4.2 Despite significant progress in our road safety provision, the council recognised there was room for improvement and accepts residents across the borough have requested that the Strategic Road Safety Plan was updated in order to address the growing challenges Sandwell faces including an increasing number of vehicles on the road, climate change, adaptations to public transport and other such imperatives.
- 4.3 The review aims to gather evidence to inform service shaping and future provision. It is important to ensure effective and efficient measures are implemented to recognise and proactively respond to the concerns of residents, but to also note that a Plan reflective of the current climate played an crucial role in ensuring all residents continued to feel safe within the borough.
- 4.4 By investigating and reviewing the current Strategic Road Safety Plan, it will ensure that the implementation of effective measures, strategies and policies to help inform road safety delivery within the borough.
- 4.5 The current Strategic Road Safety Plan is due to be revised in 2022, therefore this timely review will enable Members to gather evidence from stakeholders, the Council and partners, evaluate findings and options and make recommendations to propose initiatives and measures to influence and promote road safety.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 There is no content within this report that requires any further consultation at this stage.

6 Alternative Options

- 6.1 The purpose of the review is to develop an understanding of the road safety issues in the Borough and how the current Plan could be improved to consider current issues and if the Council should consider alternative options.

7 Implications

Resources:	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
Legal and Governance:	The current 2017-2022 Strategic Road Safety Plan also helps discharge Sandwell's Statutory Duty under Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to develop a programme of measures designed to promote road safety.
Risk:	There are no associated risks with this report.
Equality:	There are no current considerations.
Health and Wellbeing:	The Strategic Road Safety Plan's main focus is the reduction of harm and injury on the Borough's road network with the aim to reduce casualties and improve the safety environment across the council's asset.
Social Value	An efficient and effective Strategic Road Safety Plan will contribute to the wellbeing, cohesion and resilience of Sandwell's communities.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A – Scope Document