

Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document

Review Title:	Strategic Road Safety Plan
Scrutiny Board:	Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment
Date of Review:	2022

Reasons for undertaking the review:

On Tuesday 18 January Council agreed to ask the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board to conduct a review into the current Strategic Road Safety Plan. Members raised concerns that action to implement traffic calming measures was not taken until a fatality had occurred.

The current Strategic Road Safety Plan is due to be revised in 2022. The primary focus of the review will be to consider the introduction of a policy that identifies roads and streets that have suffered regular speeding collisions and implement traffic calming measures accordingly, in order for the Council to take a proactive approach to avoid such incidents and fatalities. The review will also aim 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.

Road safety of the highest importance for the health and well-being of residents in Sandwell. While over the last two decades road accidents have seen a reduction of 55%, those being killed and seriously injured reduced 52% and accidents involving children reduced further by 72% there remained 800 road accidents annually. The cause of the majority of accidents has been identified as either speeding, congestion or poor pedestrian safety.

Intended Outcomes:

- To consider the introduction of a policy that identifies roads and streets that have suffered regular speeding collisions and implement speed calming measures.
- That KPIs set within the current Strategic Road Safety Plan (in terms of Regional Strategy and Local Policy) are reviewed to determine progress and highlight challenges.
- Review the 'Five Pillar' strategic approach and identify areas that are working well and those that require additional attention.
- How does the Strategic Road Safety Plan respond to the issues and concerns around climate change?

- How does the Strategic Road Safety Plan reflect the growing increase in use of public transport, electric vehicles and cycling?
- To review how traffic calming schemes are introduced and how calming schemes are prioritised.
- To review the possibility of reduced speed limits to 20mph in residential and targeted areas and the impact on road safety.
- Consideration is given to how the Strategic Road Safety Plan could incorporate the wider West Midlands Combined Authority objectives as set out in the West Midlands Regional Road Safety Strategy.

Officer Group (including partners):

Highways

Links to Corporate Plan:



A connected and accessible Sandwell



Strong resilient communities

Links to Terms of Reference:

(d)highways management;
(f)transport and public infrastructure;

Scoping undertaken by:

Steph Hancock
Connor Robinson

Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):

Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy
Jeannie Fleary – PA to Director of Borough Economy

Existing data available for consideration:

Strategic Road Safety Plan 2017-2022 (Sandwell Council)

Letter from Sustainable Travel West Midlands

West Midlands Combined Authority Transport website:

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/transport/>

West Midlands Regional Road Safety Strategy:

<https://www.tfwm.org.uk/media/blti33m5/wmca-regional-road-safety-strategy-version-1-updated.pdf>

WMCA - Regional Road Safety Progress Report:
<https://governance.wmca.org.uk/documents/s5241/Report.pdf>

Data on the impact of traffic calming measures.

Potential witnesses

Transport West Midlands
(<https://corporate.tfwm.org.uk/>)

Sustainable Travel West Midlands

Review Work Programme:

Task	Method	Lead person(s)	Completion by: