

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF: Executive Member for Public Health and Wellbeing
Executive Member for Adults and Prevention

LEAD OFFICERS: Strategic Director Adults and Health
Director of Public Health

DATE: Thursday, 10 February 2022

PORTFOLIO(S) AFFECTED: Public Health and Wellbeing,
Adults and Prevention

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT:

EB Safer Roads Strategy 2022-2026

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Blackburn with Darwen Safer Roads Strategy has been developed to create a local action plan to improve safety on our roads. The strategy dovetails with that of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and recognises the importance of a coordinated regional response, whilst emphasising the value in locally devised action.

The strategy emphasises safer but also healthier roads, to widen the remit of road safety to encompass road and traffic related actions that can improve population health. The primary aim of the strategy is to reduce casualties on BwD roads. Secondary aims include; increase the number of people who feel safe on BwD roads including when walking and cycling, reduce car use and increase active travel and take action to improve air quality.

Based on the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership strategy framework, the BwD Safer Roads Strategy details actions within the areas of Engagement, Education, Enforcement and Engineering to make our roads safer and healthier. The strategy follows a safe systems approach recognising it is up to all who use and maintain the roads to improve safety. Actions are considered for road users throughout the life course, and consider both current and future directions of the borough. For example, within the action plan is a continued commitment to 20mph limits in all new residential development areas, and to encourage active travel to and from new developments with appropriate signage. There is also recognition of the importance of improving electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure within the action plan, which complements the announcement made by the UK government that all new housing developments will be required to provide EV charging points by 2022.

The strategy development and oversight takes a partnership approach with the formation of the Blackburn with Darwen Safer Roads Operational Group. This group has brought together stakeholders involved in road safety in the borough including within the Council, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Fire and Rescue, and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

The ultimate vision of the BwD Safer Roads Strategy is a Towards Zero approach, with no fatalities on our roads. On our way to achieving this vision, targets have been set within the BwD Safer Roads Strategy period:

- Target for a 30% reduction in fatal and serious casualties on BwD roads by 2026 from 2019 levels
- Target for 30% reduction in fatal and serious casualties in those 15 years and under by 2026 from 2019 levels
- Target to reduce the number of Air Quality Management Areas in the borough from four to one by 2026
- Target for an increase in walking and cycling in line with the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Note the content of and approve the Blackburn with Darwen Safer Roads Strategy 2022-2026
- Support the priorities set out in the Blackburn with Darwen Safer Roads Strategy 2022-2026

3. BACKGROUND

Data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework demonstrates that compared to other local authorities in the North West, Blackburn with Darwen had the second highest rate of people killed and seriously injured on our roads per billion vehicle miles travelled in 2019 (223 compared to the modelled North West average of 86 per billion vehicle miles travelled). We also had highest crude rate in the region of children aged 0-15 killed and seriously injured on the roads during 2017-2019, and the highest rate when compared to our nearest statistical neighbours throughout the country. The importance of a coordinated road safety strategy amongst partners in the borough is therefore clear.

The Lancashire Road Safety Partnership 2016-2026 strategy details a vision of Towards Zero Lancashire and the following aims: reduce road traffic fatalities by user group and age, reduce severity and numbers of road traffic injuries by user group and age, improve outcomes of 'vulnerable' road users and improve and change road safety attitudes and behaviours. This strategy uses the 3Es of Education, Enforcement and Engineering along with an emphasis of a coordinated and evidence based response. The BwD Safer Roads Strategy makes use of the same framework and adds a further E in Engagement, emphasising the importance of engaging with our communities at a local level, along with encouraging engagement from all local service and stakeholders within this agenda.

In 2019 the Department for Transport released a 2 year action plan for road safety with a particular focus on lifelong driver learning and improving driver behaviour, as well as an emphasis on active travel and making use of a Safe Systems approach. Our strategy also reflects these national priorities.

Globally, the United Nations has announced a goal to reduce road traffic injuries and deaths by 50% in the period 2021-2030. This same goal has also recently been committed to in Scotland. The casualty reduction targets in this strategy therefore reflect these global priorities.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has committed to improving rates of physical activity as part of the Eat Well Move More Strategy and the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan. Increasing rates

of walking and cycling will increase physical activity within the borough and help to reduce the risks of physical inactivity including heart disease, diabetes and mental health problems. Addressing actual and perceived risks to walkers and cyclists on our roads is a key part of the Safer Roads Strategy and the BwD Safer Roads Operational Group has close links to the Blackburn with Darwen 'Stride and Ride' active travel group. Therefore, synergistic actions to improve road safety and rates of active travel have been embedded into the action plan.

Poor air quality is associated with poor health, and local air quality management policies have been shown to reduce hospital admissions in their local areas. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has been able to revoke four of the eight air quality management areas (AQMA's) in the borough in recent years. The BwD Safer Roads Strategy will contribute to reducing air pollution through raising awareness of the dangers of poor air quality, encouraging active travel and other behaviour change actions to reduce emissions, and continued improvement of electric vehicle infrastructure.

Creating safer and healthier roads in BwD therefore ties into a number of agendas and priorities for the Council, including those of the BwD Borough Council's Corporate Plan such as improving health inequalities and outcomes and ensuring a safe and clean environment. This strategy complements the ambitions of the council to improve rates of active travel as detailed in the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan, and the Local Transport Plan 4. Additionally, with aims around reducing car use, increasing active travel and improving air quality, this complements the BwD Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the Council's statutory duty to maintain acceptable levels of air quality and the BwD Climate Emergency Action Plan.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

Blackburn with Darwen has higher than average numbers of people killed and seriously injured on the roads compared to regional and national figures, and therefore addressing this with a local strategy is vitally important. Road traffic injuries and death have a devastating impact on families and the wider community, as well as implications for local services. The value of prevention for each fatal car crash is estimated at over £2 million, and the average cost of every car crash (including those which are non-severe) at over £100k each. These are the costs for the year 2020 as laid out by the Department for Transport and are calculated both by estimating the cost of medical care, police time and so on, but also the value the public places on prevention. Additionally, inequalities are seen in road traffic incidents with the most disadvantaged more likely to be involved in crashes. Therefore, prevention of road traffic injuries is a health and wellbeing, social justice and an economic issue.

Increasing walking and cycling and reducing car use is an important part of the road safety agenda. BwD has high rates of physical inactivity. Helping people feel safer to use transport out of their car is an important step within this agenda. This also complements the aim of improving air quality and the council's commitment to taking action on the climate emergency.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Safer Roads Strategy complements the council's policies on aiming to improve health and health inequalities, ensuring a safe environment, reducing car use, encouraging active travel and taking action on the climate emergency.

The strategy therefore complements and creates policy links with:

- Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2023
- The Local Transport Plan
- The Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan 2021-2024
- The Eat Well Move More Strategy 2022-2025
- The Blackburn with Darwen Climate Emergency Action Plan

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

However, implementation of the Strategy may have financial implications. Subject to the actions taken, these may be contained with current budgets or, where actions required additional funding, these will be subject to approval within requirements set out in the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The local authority has legal responsibilities to reduce and prevent accidents, investigate crashes involving vehicles and promote road safety as well as ensure the efficient and safe movement of people under the Road Traffic Act 1988 (Section 39), the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Section 122), the Traffic Management Act 2004 (Section 16). Public Health within local authority has a duty to monitor and protect the health of the population under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Environment Act 1995 part IV requires local authorities to monitor air quality and have plans to address areas which do not or are not anticipated to reach targets.

All future schemes considered as part of the plan will be designed and implemented in accordance with relevant highway, transport and traffic legislation. Procurement will occur in accordance with the council's constitution and; where relevant, European directives; and any grant conditions.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The delivery of the action plan detailed in the strategy will be monitored by the BwD Safer Roads Operational Group, directly accountable to the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's Executive Board, and with close relationships with the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below.

Option 1 ☒ Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

Option 3 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

10. CONSULTATIONS

The strategy was developed in close partnership with the Safer Roads Operational group which has representation from stakeholders including the Lancashire constabulary, North West Ambulance Service, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

A targeted online consultation survey on the content of the strategy was undertaken via stakeholder networks, social media, and the Lancashire Constabulary platform Lancashire Talking. It received 333 responses. Responses were used to inform the aims and actions within the strategy.

An interactive consultation process was undertaken by the social marketing company Social Sense with 3 high schools in the borough. The children and young people specific survey received 321 responses, and will be used to inform a social marketing campaign promoting road safety designed by young people.

Council portfolios were consulted via Senior Political Team meetings including public health, adults and prevention, children and young people, and growth and development.

The strategy will also be taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

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DATE:	10.02.2022
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1: Blackburn with Darwen Safer Roads Strategy 2022-2026 Appendix 2: Blackburn with Darwen Safer Roads Strategy Action Plan 2022-2026 Appendix 3: Blackburn with Darwen Eat Well Move More Strategy 2022-2025 Appendix 4: Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan 2021-2024 Appendix 5: Blackburn with Darwen Climate Emergency Action Plan Appendix 6: Towards Zero Lancashire: Road Safety Strategy for Lancashire 2016-2026