



Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 16 January 2024

Follow Up: Scrutiny Working Group – Road Safety

Purpose:	This report provides background and advice to the Committee in following up on the Scrutiny Working Group which looked at issues relating to Road Safety in December 2022. Lead Cabinet Member / officers have been asked to report on progress since then, including issues raised by the Working Group.
Content:	<p>The Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure, Councillor Andrew Stevens, has provided a report which is appended for questions and discussion.</p> <p>The Committee is provided with the correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following its meeting which contain the views / concerns of Scrutiny Councillors. The Committee should follow up on any agreed action in response to Working Group suggestions for improvement.</p>
Councillors are being asked to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information provided, ask questions, and make comments and recommendations as necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Andrew Stevens (Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure)
Lead Officers:	Mark Wade, Director of Place Stuart Davies, Head of Highways & Transportation
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Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
Finance Officer:	Amanda Thomas

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Programme Committee has overall responsibility for the Scrutiny Work Programme. Each year, the Work Programme includes several 'one-off' topic-based Scrutiny Working Groups to look at specific issues of concern. These are usually set up as single meetings

to call in relevant Cabinet Member(s), officers, and other relevant persons, to examine the issue and feedback views and recommendations to the Cabinet Member(s). As such the Committee takes responsibility for following up on Working Groups, to check on progress with the topic / issue(s) and response to any specific suggestions / recommendations made and agreed action coming out of the Scrutiny session.

2. Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group

2.1 The Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group originally met on 7 December 2022 to discuss issues including speed controls (signs, humps and cameras), the new 20mph limits, road conditions and partnership working. It has now been over 12 months since the Scrutiny Working Group, and therefore the Committee should follow up on progress on the issue(s) and action following any suggestions coming out of the Scrutiny session and find out how things have progressed and developments in this area of work.

2.2 Main Working Group Findings

In order to assist the Committee's follow up, a summary is provided:

2.2.1 The Working Group were concerned that the Welsh Government Road Safety Grant had been held back for the 2nd year in a row due to the 20mph speed reduction scheme and the potential impact this would have, including other safety measures that are already in place like speed bumps, plus the additional workload to highways staff.

2.2.2 The Cabinet Member is a member of the Go Safe Partnership, and the Working Group requested for him to appeal to the Partnership to be more proactive in the area of Gower Commons. The Cabinet Member agreed to work constructively with Go Safe to remove barriers limiting enforcement activity.

2.2.3 A recommendation to increase signage and banners outside schools as a deterrent to remind drivers to drive and park safely around schools was made by the Working Group. The Cabinet Member responded to say that an arrangement with a major local employer who provided financial support for these measures had expired and that the Road Safety Team would welcome the opportunity to reintroduce these messages and continue to seek partnerships through the Commercial Team to support this activity.

2.2.4 The Working Group raised the need for developments in the Kerbcraft programme, suggesting a module on encouraging walking to school and general active travel. The Cabinet Member informed the Working Group that Welsh Government was in the process of reviewing the Kerbcraft program and seeking contractors to undertake this operation. Once appointed, Swansea Council, as a key stakeholder, would

contribute to this review and take the opportunity provided to seek expansion of the education modules to build in the benefits of an active travel approach.

2.3 The correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following this Scrutiny activity is **attached**, showing the range of issues that were discussed, feedback and concerns, and the Cabinet Member's subsequent response.

2.4 Looking back at the Working Group discussion, the Committee will want to ask about the following:

- Progress with 20mph implementation and its impact on road safety
- Update on issues with Road Safety Grant
- The Council's relationship with GoSafe and input – main focus over past year (any discussion regarding Gower Commons).
- Whether we have increased the use of Countdown Crossings.
- The success of new initiatives around schools, e.g., traffic restrictions trial in Pontarddulais; any developments that will help with measures, such as signage / banners, around schools to remind motorists about safety.
- Developments in the Kerbcraft programme, e.g., developing a module on encouraging walking to school and general active travel.
- Experience of shared use paths – any more work on information, signage and guidance to encourage tolerant behaviour between cyclists and walkers; awareness of incidents, etc.

2.5 Link to the Scrutiny Working Group meeting:

7 Dec 2022

<https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=732&MIId=11082&Ver=4&LLL=0>

2.6 Scrutiny Councillors who participated in the Working Group: Chris Holley (Convener), Mike Day, Joe Hale, Sue Jones, Wendy Fitzgerald, Lyndon Jones, Kevin Griffiths, Dai Jenkins and Mike White.

2.7 By carrying out a follow up the Committee can then close off this Scrutiny activity and work, as appropriate.

3. Cabinet Member Report

3.1 The lead Cabinet Member, Councillor Andrew Stevens, Cabinet Member for Environment & Infrastructure, has provided a report on progress, in the context of the Scrutiny activity, on Road Safety. See **attached**.

3.2 Lead officer(s) will be present to assist and facilitate the discussion.

3.3 The Committee will hear from the Cabinet Member / officers before questions and discussion. At the conclusion of the session the Committee can write to the Cabinet Member with any observations, views and recommendations arising from the follow up discussion.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

- Letter correspondence between the Road Safety Scrutiny Working Group and Cabinet Member: Letters dated 4 January 2023 and 26 January 2023
- Cabinet Member Report on Road Safety