



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Subject:	Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2010 – 2020 response to consultation
Date:	18 th June 2010
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Relevant Background Information

This paper presents for consideration a draft response to the consultation exercise relating to the Road Safety Strategy for Northern Ireland 2010 – 2020. The production of the draft strategy has been overseen by representatives from DoE, Driver and Vehicle Licence Agency, DRD, Department of Education, Department of Employment and Learning, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, PSNI, Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Service.

The draft strategy is based on detailed research and analysis of road safety statistics including views gathered in a pre-consultation engagement which involved input from the former Belfast Road Safety Committee (which comprised councillors, representatives of external organisations and individuals). The strategy seeks to involve all those who have a contribution to make, including Local Authorities, to explore ways to build capacity to reduce casualties at local level.

The document identifies 6 key challenges to be addressed over the lifetime of the strategy.

1. Continuing to reduce the numbers of road deaths and serious injuries.
2. Focusing specifically on improving safety on rural roads.
3. Working particularly to protect young drivers (age range 16-24) and motor cyclists).
4. Reducing inappropriate and illegal road user behaviour including speeding, drink and drug driving and careless and dangerous driving.
5. Improving our knowledge and involvement in solving road safety problems, and
6. Working with funding uncertainties.

Road Safety has been established as an important consideration in successive Programmes for Government. It is accepted that proposals impact on other government policies including improving health, the environment, sustainability and climate change and also local government and public sector reform. The document notes that future decisions will be impacted by a range of factors including devolved powers to local government, use of public transport, increase in walking/cycling and carbon constraints.

Key Issues

Based on the analysis of road safety statistics and a review of strategies in other locations, the consultation document presents over 170 proposed Action Measures which have been agreed by the statutory road safety partners. The measures are set to contribute to 4 key targets which are established against a baseline of 2004 – 2008 average figures.

1. To reduce the number of people killed in road collisions by at least 40%.
2. To reduce the number of people seriously injured in road collisions by at least 45%.
3. To reduce the number of children (aged 0-15) killed or seriously injured in road collisions by at least 55%, and
4. To reduce the number of young people (aged 16-24) killed or seriously injured in road collisions by at least 55%.

The 174 proposals contained within the draft strategy are listed under broad headings:

- (i) Road users
- (ii) Roads
- (iii) Vehicles
- (iv) Working with others

The main proposals under each heading are summarised below:

(i) Road Users

- (a) Audit road safety education services and resources.
- (b) Develop improved measures to influence young people's attitudes and behaviours.
- (c) Re-assess and improve the way novice drivers first learn to drive and consult on introducing a new system of Graduated Driver Licensing.
- (d) Extend the use of driver remedial courses and make greater use of them to address errant road user behaviour.
- (e) Introduce graduated penalties for certain offences.
- (f) Adopt the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) speed limit enforcement guidelines.
- (g) Focus on better retrieval and extrication of casualties based on collaborative working between the Fire and Rescue Service on both sides of the border and the community and voluntary sector.

(ii) Roads

- (a) Undertake a review of speed limits on upper tier rural roads.
- (b) Consider the applicability of urban speed reduction initiatives.
- (c) Assess the potential for wider introduction of 20mph limits in residential areas and other urban areas where there is a significant presence of vulnerable road users. (such as around schools)

(iii) Vehicles

- (a) Support National introduction of appropriate EU vehicle regulations.
- (b) Seek increasing opportunities to participate in trialling and piloting new systems within the UK research programme and supporting the future emphasis on advanced crash avoidance systems.

(iv) Working with others

- (a) Set up an Active Travel Forum, including a range of stakeholders, which will consider a broad strategic approach to active travel.
- (b) Set up a Motor Cycling Forum, including a range of stakeholders, which will consider an inclusive and strategic approach to motor cycling.
- (c) To work with Local Authorities to explore ways to build capacity to reduce casualties at a local level, identify local road safety issues and objectives and determine how we can work together to address local needs and priorities.

The timescale for the completion of the 2010-2020 strategy involves the completion of the consultation report (September 2010); draft strategy for consideration by Minister and Assembly (October 2010) and strategy launch (December 2010).

The attached draft response in Appendix 1 does not comment on each of the 174 Action Measures proposed. It is generally supportive of the direction and content of the report and makes specific reference to issues which are of greater relevance to Belfast City Council.

The draft response has been informed by comments received from relevant sections within the Council. It also takes account of discussion at a joint seminar convened by NILGA and the DoE to consider a general response on behalf of local government. A draft response from NILGA is included in Appendix 2

Resource Implications

N/A

Recommendations

To agree the draft consultation response.

Decision Tracking

The official deadline for comments is 15 June, however an extension to the consultation deadline has been agreed with DoE. A copy of the Council response, including amendments if necessary, will be forwarded after Committee consideration and Council ratification.

Key to Abbreviations

ACPO Association of Chief Police Officers
DoE Department of the Environment (NI)
DRD Department for Regional Development
NILGA Northern Ireland Local Government Association
PSNI Police Service of Northern Ireland

Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – Draft BCC response to consultation.
Appendix 2 – Draft NILGA response to consultation.