



# Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee

## Review Scoping Report - 2023/24

### “A Review of the Council’s Road Safety Initiatives and Activities”

#### **1. REVIEW OBJECTIVES**

##### **Aim and background to review**

At its meeting on 11 July 2023, the Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee suggested a number of topics for its next major scrutiny review. These topics were explored with officers for feasibility with the frontrunning topic being a review looking into how the Council addresses road safety matters.

The aim of the prospective review, for the Committee to consider, would be to take a broad assessment of road safety in Hillingdon and to make recommendations to Cabinet for ways in which the Council could enhance its activities for the safety of the Borough’s residents. By looking at the local context within Hillingdon, the London-wide setting, and the national picture, the Select Committee will be in a position to offer their findings and recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

This document serves as an introduction to the topic and sets out, in general terms the legislative and national context to road safety at a local government level. The scoping report also offers a framework for any subsequent review.

Topics suggested to be considered as part of the review are set out within the Terms of Reference:

### **Terms of Reference (DRAFT):**

The following Terms of Reference are suggested for the review, subject to any changes agreed by the Committee:

1. To understand the Council's current position and procedures with regard to road safety initiatives;
2. To explore the national legislative setting and initiatives undertaken by other London Boroughs and local authorities in relation to road safety, particularly outer London Boroughs;
3. To explore road safety trends both locally and nationally;
4. To assess the Council's approach to road safety within the vicinity of schools;
5. To influence any emerging Council plans with respect to road safety and traffic calming;
6. Subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions, service and policy recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

## **2. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Key information and issues**

Local authorities play an important role in facilitating the safety of their highways for all types of road users. Central government sets the regulatory framework for highways, vehicles and road users, and the UK's national road safety strategy by:

- Providing funding and resources to local government and others to deliver road safety initiatives;
- Commissioning research into the nature, causes of, and potential solutions to road casualties;
- Collecting and publishing road casualty data;
- Conducting education and publicity campaigns;
- Setting standards for road design, construction and maintenance;
- Setting requirements for driver licensing, training and testing;
- Setting standards for vehicles and requirements for vehicle licensing; and
- Setting road use laws, including offences and penalties, and guidance on safe road use, such as the ever evolving Highway Code.

## Legislative context

There is a raft of legislation which covers management of the highway, both in terms of how the roads and footways are looked after (e.g. The Highways Act 1980) and also how people and traffic moves over them (e.g. The Road Traffic Act 1988 and 1991, and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984).

Local authorities are the main delivery agent of tangible road safety schemes. Local authorities have a statutory duty under **section 39 of the 1988 Road Traffic Act** to “take steps both to reduce and prevent accidents”.

*39 (1) The Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, provide for promoting road safety by disseminating information or advice relating to the use of roads.*

*39 (2) Each local authority must prepare and carry out a programme of measures designed to promote road safety and may make contributions towards the cost of measures for promoting road safety taken by other authorities or bodies.*

*39 (3) Each local authority –*

*[a] must carry out studies into accidents arising out of the use of vehicles on roads or part of roads, other than trunk roads, within their area,*

*[b] must, in the light of those studies, take such measures as appear to the authority to be appropriate to prevent such accidents, including the dissemination of information and advice relating to the use of the roads, the giving of practical training to road users or any class or description of road users, the construction, improvement, maintenance or repair of roads for which they are the highway authority (in Scotland, local roads authority) and other measures taken in the exercise of their powers for controlling, protecting or assisting the movement of traffic on roads, and*

*[c] in constructing new roads, must take such measures as appear to the authority to be appropriate to reduce the possibilities of such accidents when the roads come into use.*

## Current data, best practice and research

Further data and research will be identified as the review progresses.

## Connected work

The Council has an ongoing Road Safety Programme and undertakes general road safety initiatives regularly. This work will be identified in further detail as part of the Committee’s review.

## **Executive Responsibilities**

The review would fall under the Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee's remit as set out in the Constitution. The Cabinet Member responsible for Highways is Councillor Jonathan Bianco - Cabinet Member for Property, Highways & Transport.

## **3. EVIDENCE & ENQUIRY**

### **Lines of Enquiry**

Lines of enquiry can be expanded as the review progresses or included in relevant witness session reports. However, lines of enquiry may include:

- The securing of funding for road safety schemes;
- The development of the Council's Road Safety Programme and the methods by which road safety initiatives are chosen and prioritised;
- Enquiring as to the Council's approach to road safety within the vicinity of schools, including the School Streets Scheme;
- Examining the level of engagement and cooperation with schools with regard to road safety, including cycle safety and pedestrian safety;
- Assessing the way in which road safety concerns and service requests from residents and Members are handled by the Council;
- Enquiring as to the emergence of any road safety trends, be it trends in reported accident data, traffic offences, or trends in the number service requests or concerns raised by residents;
- Exploring road safety initiatives undertaken elsewhere, both locally and nationally.

### **Potential witnesses**

Witnesses will be identified by the Committee in consultation with relevant officers; although some suggested witnesses could include;

- Testimony from LBH Officers;
- Representatives of Hillingdon's schools, including parents and/or school leaders;
- Hillingdon residents;
- Representatives from other local authorities.

### **Surveys, site-visits or other fact-finding events**

Such opportunities will be identified as the review progresses. It is expected that witness sessions within the Committee's meetings will act as the primary method of enquiry. There is the possibility of conducting site visits to witness works or programmes undertaken by the Council with regard to road safety, cycle safety or pedestrian safety.

## Future information that may be required

Further information may be identified as the review progresses.

## 4. REVIEW PLANNING & ASSESSMENT

The proposed timeframe and milestones for the review are set out below:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Purpose / theme</b>	<b>Witnesses / officers attending</b>
20 September 2023	Agree Scoping Report		
18 October 2023	Witness Session 1	Understand the Council's current position and national setting	LBH Officers
14 November 2023	Witness Session 2	Exploring levels of engagement with schools	TBC LBH Officers Representatives of the Borough's schools
Possible site visit			
10 January 2024	Witness Session 3	Exploring initiatives undertaken by other local authorities	TBC LBH Officers Representatives from other local authorities.
08 February 2024	De-brief and emerging findings	To discuss key findings and identify potential recommendations	LBH Officers
March/April 2024	Approval of draft final report	Proposals – agree recommendations and final draft report to Cabinet	
TBC 2024	Submission of final report for endorsement by Cabinet		

### Resource requirements

None.

### Equalities impact

TBC.

## **Background reading**

[LBH Website – School Streets in Hillingdon](#)

[Road Traffic Act 1988](#)

[Department for Transport – The Highway Code](#)

[Police.UK – Road Safety](#)

[TfL Road Network \(TLRN\) Boundaries](#)

## **Previous Related Reviews:**

None.