

REVIEW FINDINGS: REVIEW INTO THE COUNCIL'S ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE BOROUGH'S SCHOOLS

Committee name	Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee
Officer reporting	Anisha Teji – Democratic Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – Guidance on Policy Reviews Appendix 2 – Updated Scoping Report Appendix 3 – Minutes of previous meetings relating to the review
Ward	All Wards

HEADLINES

Background

As part of the review into the Road Safety, Members will be advised to start considering findings, conclusions and early draft recommendations on the review for broader discussion and stocktake of the review to-date.

Summary

The Committee has, to date, held three witness sessions. The intention of these sessions was to obtain feedback from a range of stakeholders with a view to improving the service.

At its meeting on 20 September 2023, the Property, Highways & Transport Select Committee formally agreed to commence a scrutiny review into the Council's road safety initiatives and activities around the Borough's schools.

The Select Committee held their first witness session with internal officers and the Cabinet Member for Property Highways and Transport on 18 October 2023. On 14 November 2023 Members heard from a variety of witnesses including the Council's Road Safety and School Travel Manager, the School Travel and Road Safety Officers and representatives from two schools. At the third witness session, the Committee heard from residents that lived in close vicinity of schools and students who attended schools.

Notwithstanding the final additional witness session, as the bulk of witness testimony is now complete, it is considered timely for Members to start to consider their early collective findings so these can be worked up in more detail, and ultimately incorporated into the final report to Cabinet. Any subsequent findings from the final witness session can still be fed into the process.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee consider possible conclusions, findings and early draft recommendations in relation to the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In considering this item, Members should bear in mind the following:

1) Scoping report – looking at the original parameters of the review

The updated review scoping report is attached so Members can be reminded of the original Terms of Reference as set out below, and whether the Committee has met these:

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) Policy review guidance

Members will recall the guidance issued in July 2022 on undertaking policy reviews. This guidance is attached to this report for reference again, and Members are asked to take into account Point 4 on Findings and draft recommendations and in particular whether they:

- Meet the initial aims / objectives of the review (as above)
- Be SMART, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound
- Not be a short-term fix, but a lasting outcome
- Consider the financial aspect, e.g. cost neutral, provide savings or if at a cost, then affordable – and if possible aligned with the MTFF (budget planning process)
- Are based on a broad evidence base as possible and 'user or resident' insight
- Not create additional bureaucracy, e.g. if it relates to a policy, then to seek to review or amend existing policies (unless there is an absolute imperative for a new policy)
- If publicity or wider engagement or education is recommended, to target such communications as best as possible rather than generally
- Consider 'conclusions' as well as any specific recommendations.

3) Minutes of previous meetings

Attached as Appendix 3 are the minutes of previous meetings relating to the review, which may assist in Members' considerations.

4) Possible areas for emerging recommendations

In discussion with the Chairman, Members may wish to consider the following 'areas' to develop and refine possible findings, conclusions and draft recommendations:

1. Continue the important partnership with schools
2. Customising and adapting approaches to different schools

3. Consider pedestrian training for school children to encourage road safety
4. How we can increase awareness of the current procedures in place in regards to road safety.
5. How communications can be better developed
6. Explore ways to engage with schools that don't engage

Committee Members may also wish to bring their own findings and thoughts based upon the various witness testimony received.

Democratic Services will then "road-test" any draft recommendations from the Committee, looking at their feasibility with the relevant service area and report back to the Committee to a subsequent meeting, in preparation for shaping the final draft report for the Committee's approval.

Implications on related Council policies

A key role of Select Committees is to monitor the performance of Council services within their remit. Select Committees may also make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

The vision for the Councils road safety initiatives sits within some of the Councils core commitments and ambitions to residents contained within the Council Strategy 2022 - 2026 (*To be / feel safe from harm and Safe and Strong Communities*).

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

It is important that the Committee considers cost effective proposals that benefit resident taxpayers in relation to this review, which would ultimately be determined by Cabinet as part of the Council's broader budget planning process.

Legal Implications

None.

APPENDICES

NIL.