

GLOUCESTERSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

MINUTES of a meeting of the Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership held on Thursday 7 September 2023.

PRESENT:

Cllr Dave Norman, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, GCC
Nick Evans, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner
Supt. Paul Keasey, Director of Specialist Operations, Gloucestershire Constabulary
Nathaniel Hooton, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, GFRS
Jason Humm, Director of Transport and Highways, GCC
Philip Williams, Assistant Director of Traffic and Transport, GCC
Claire Procter, Assistant Director of Prevention, Wellbeing and Communities, GCC

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2023 were approved.

3. ACTION UPDATE

Partners gave updates on the actions from the previous meeting.

4. OPERATIONAL DELIVERY BOARD

Partners considered an update from the Operational Delivery Board (ODB) given by Chair, Supt. Paul Keasey.

It was noted that ODB had; developed a strong foundation of delivery, created a shared vision and objectives, worked to enhance collaboration between national, regional, and local agencies, allocated clear roles and responsibilities (including identified leads for each work stream), adopted a strong governance and oversight approach and carried out individual meetings with each thematic work stream lead to start to shape progress for the next 12 months.

Five of the eight work streams had now developed bespoke strategic approaches plus action plans and RAID (Risk, Assumptions, Issues, Decision) logs. The remaining three would be completed in the next few months.

The Constabulary had successfully secured funding from the Department for Transport to develop, design and implement a Commercial Vehicle Watch (CVW) Scheme in Gloucestershire. The scheme related to monitoring light and heavy commercial vehicle compliance (e.g., using narrow lanes, ignoring weight and width restrictions, parking inconsiderately, speeding etc.).

Partners commented that this was an issue that concerned residents, particularly in the Stroud area and welcomed this approach to collating data on the problems into a single source. An action was taken to work on some messaging to promote the scheme accordingly.

A road safety insight trial had been secured in partnership with GAIST to look at how to deliver safer roads via improved insight into factors such as highway condition, harsh braking hotspots, mobile network coverage etc. The trial hoped to report back initial findings to the next Strategic Board meeting.

It was noted that there had been enhanced collaboration between partners in the past few months regarding improving the flow of information from collision data. This did however remain an area of improvement and an action was taken by partners to explore how this could be achieved.

5. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE AND FUTURE PRIORITIES

Emma Wild, the Communications representative on the Strategic Board, gave an update to partners on recent communication activity across all the organisations.

It was noted that driver aggression towards cyclist remained an issue and that communication messaging would not be enough to address it.

There was also growing concern around distraction playing a more prominent part in road accidents, particularly due to how complex modern vehicles were becoming. An action was taken to explore this in further detail.

6. FUNDING

Partners fed back on their funding discussions to date which included the exploration of in-year funding opportunities and the Council's budget allocation process for 2024/25 which was due to start in October.

A number of actions were taken to progress these discussions and feedback to the next Strategic Board.

Partners noted positive early indication from the Community Speedwatch Fund data and agreed to explore options for extending the programme.

All partners noted the importance of the Partnership's existence in supporting future funding bids.