

Report to Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 2 April 2013

Portfolio: Safer, Greener & Highways

Subject: Highways Accident Statistics

Officer contact for further information: Qasim Durrani

Committee Secretary: A Hendry



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

To note the highway accident statistics provided by Essex Highways

Report:

1. Members of the Panel expressed a wish to receive highway accident statistics from Essex Highways. Members will also recall that when Nick Alston, the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex addressed the panel at its last meeting, he also made reference to the perceived poor accident record in Essex and that he was intending to include this issue amongst his priorities for the forthcoming year.
2. Essex Highways operates on a pan-Essex basis, rather than prioritising one particular district. The priorities for Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) in Essex are:
 - (a) powered 2 wheeled;
 - (b) young car drivers; and
 - (c) pedestrians

which accounted for 29%, 18% and 15% respectively of the 630 KSI recorded in Essex in 2011. Approximately 30% of KSI comprise of issues such as mobile phone use, not wearing a seatbelt, speeding, driving too close to the vehicle in front and other similar poor driving behaviours.

3. In respect of this District, there were 83 KSI in 2011, comprised of:
 - (a) 17 powered 2 wheeled (20%);
 - (b) 10 young car drivers (12%); and
 - (c) 15 pedestrians (18%)

Road Safety Engineers noted particular issues relating to the A121 through Loughton which have been investigated and treated where possible.

4. In order to address poor driving habits, Essex Highways has funded additional Police activity whereby areas are “surrounded” for a day and poor driving behaviours targeted. Some of this activity has, or is intended, to take place in the Loughton area.
5. Officers have asked Essex Highways for a more detailed breakdown of local accident statistics, with an indication of trends since 2011. If this becomes available it will be presented at the meeting

Reason for decision:

Panel Members wish to be made aware of local highway accident statistics (KSI).

Options considered and rejected:

None

Consultation undertaken:

None. Data obtained from Essex Highways

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Nil

Personnel: Nil

Land: Nil

Community Plan/BVPP reference:

Relevant statutory powers:

Background papers:

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:

Given the nature of the District, with 2 motorways and a lot of traffic generated by motorists passing through the District, those KSI have always been a local concern, along with County Highways and Police activities to reduce the numbers.

Key Decision reference: (if required)