

Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative

Minutes of Working Group Meeting

03 April 2008

Gateshead Civic Centre Development & Enterprise

Present:

Ray King	Project Manager (Chair)
Jeremy Forsberg	Communications Manager
Danny Barker	Data Support Officer
Kelly Wilson	Gateshead Council (Finance)
Neil Thorpe	Newcastle University
Rohail Ahmed	LTP Core Team
Denise Newman	HMCS
Peter Morris	Highways Agency
Neil Fraser	Northumbria Police
Allan Calvert	Sunderland City Council
Neil Frier	Gateshead Council
Alan Bawn	Northumberland County Council
Ian Duncan	Road Safety Support (RSS)
Sia Mahmoodshahi	South Tyneside Council

Apologies:

Paul Flemming	North Tyneside Council
Kevin Wellden	Northumbria Police
Derek Ord	Newcastle City Council

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record of proceedings.

3. Matters arising

PM asked if the motorcycle research had commenced. RK informed that the research had been commissioned and was likely to start very soon.

4 & 5. Update from the Steering Group meeting & RSS presentation

RSS Membership:

The joining of the National Group, Road Safety Support (RSS) at a cost of £22,000 was discussed at a previous meeting by the group and the recommendation put forward to the Steering Group was that no cost benefits were to be gained by the local authorities, only the police, therefore the

partnership should only join if Northumbria Police paid the membership charge. The Steering Group requested that further investigation was needed. Ian Duncan, a representative from RSS with a background in local authority working, gave the group a presentation. This detailed the work that RSS is currently carrying out around the country and pointed out the benefits of joining, in particular expertise in signing regulations and enforcement technology. Of the original 38 camera partnerships ID stated that 30 had joined RSS, with 2 rejecting to join.

The group discussed the benefits and costs of joining RSS. Concerns were expressed that the support offered is already available by each local authority through their respective traffic engineers. The local authority representatives felt that the majority of benefits from joining RSS were to Northumbria Police and the Crown Prosecutions Service (CPS). Also it was observed that since the Highways Agency are a member of RSS then any challenges on offences on their roads should already be covered.

NF(NP) stated that Northumbria Police would not pay the full RSS joining fee as the successful prosecution of court cases benefits every partner.

It was agreed that more work into the cost benefits of joining was needed. JF to investigate how many files for prosecution, referred by FPU, are subsequently dropped by CPS in Northumbria.

RK will seek feedback from partnerships that have joined the scheme. NF(NP) to confirm exactly how much financial backing Northumbria Police would give for the joining off RSS.

Action: JF/RK/NF(NP)

Route Enforcement:

The Steering Group requested that an investigation into route enforcement be under taken to ascertain its viability in the region.

Continuation of the VAS Program:

The Steering Group require a review of the program with the view of rolling it out to non-camera sites if found to be a successful road safety tool.

Replacement of Wet Film Cameras:

A policy is needed to determine when each of our fixed cameras will need to be replaced with a digital upgrade.

All work is required by the Steering Group meeting in September.

6. Project issues & progress

RK stated that all partnership activity was presently running to plan.

To ensure enforcement at public concern sites is both valid and legal, local authorities are required to sign site certificates similar to those signed for core sites. Certificates were distributed to each local authority with public concern sites.

7. Finance

All Q4 claims are due to be submitted to KW no later than 11 April 2008, as stated by KW in an earlier e-mail to all partners.

Once the Q4 claims are complete a full financial statement (subject to audit in September) will be issued to all partners.

8. Communications

JF updated the group on all recent and planned communications activity.

The Tyne & Wear LTP Steering Group approved additional funding of around £120K for extra communications activity in the area. Most activity would be aimed at young drivers, motorcyclists, and fleet/business drivers.

The Road Respect Charter is still being rolled out to business around the region and is receiving a lot of positive recognition from the private sector. Due to the Chronicles involvement in the Charter, the partnership has received around £100K in free positive advertising.

The schools competition is delayed until September 2008. Although it was positively received by the schools, the timing was wrong with them due to A-level examinations so at the request of the schools the competition has been delayed.

Road shows planned over the summer months at various locations around the region. They will vary from local shows to region wide events and should target a good mix of drivers.

9. Site re-prioritisation

Core mobile camera sites are currently being regarded in light of the increased number and reduction targets set by the Steering Group. A grading has been worked out for each site; however, the written policy is still in the draft stage. DB, NT and RK will meet to discuss the written policy further.

RK stated that the new gradings would be used with immediate effect.

10. Signage at public concern sites

A recommendation was put forward to the Steering Group that meant public concern sites, where camera enforcement was still necessary after a year of enforcement, should have permanent camera warning signs erected at them. The Steering Group viewed that this needed more work.

A recent review of all public concern sites showed that around 12 historic sites still required enforcement and would be viable for permanent signage.

The group agreed that because the possibility of decommissioning a public concern site was still more likely than that of a core site (and the added consequences this brings), temporary signage should still be used at all public concern sites.

11. Site selection update

Using cluster analysis and the partnership's selection criteria, possible new sites were identified. Lists were sent to all local authorities so that these sites can be checked for any planned engineering measures. Once all responses are in a final list will be surveyed to ascertain if speeding is a problem.

DB has received replies from Northumberland and North Tyneside. All other local authorities were asked to respond as soon as possible with their views.

Action: All LA's

12. Any other business

RA stated that the Tyne & Wear Road Safety Plan still in draft stage.

PM informed the group that the planned 50mph limit on the A69 Lemmington interchange has been confirmed and will be introduced soon.

NF asked if the partnership had any plans to use average speed cameras. Currently the SPECS system is the only one on the market and costs are considerable. However, RK monitors the market closely and some new systems are expected in the future, this should make for a more competitively priced market.

13. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **22 May 2008** at **9:30am** in D&E meeting room **S20**.