

Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative

Minutes of Working Group Meeting

14th January 2010

**Stephenson Room, Civic Centre
Newcastle**

Present:

Ray King	Chair
Danny Barker	Regional Data Analyst
Sara Smith	Senior Support Assistant
Jeremy Forsberg	Communications Manager
Ian McCran	Gateshead Council
Graeme Dixon	Gateshead Council (Finance)
Bryan Mullan	Newcastle City Council
Alan Bawn	Northumberland County Council
John Barnes	Northumberland Police
Neil Thorpe	Newcastle University
Denise Newman	HMCS
Paul Fleming	North Tyneside Council
Jessica Anderson	T & W LTP

Apologies:

Sia Mahmoodshahi	South Tyneside Council
Peter Morris	Highways Agency

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Site Hardening and Grass Crete

IMc ongoing. Query over Watergate Bank
BM to email estimates to RK
AB email sent to RK
PF still ongoing. Estimate to be emailed to RK

Site Certificates

BM requested grid references for sites to be sent by RK
PF and BM queried the location of Benton Lane as to whether it is North Tyneside or Newcastle. SS to grid reference brown sites to clarify Benton Lane

Action: SS

4. Project Issues and Progress

a. Potential new sites

A list of sites, that meet the selection criteria, was circulated based on collisions which occurred 1/4/06 – 31/03/09. LA's were asked to check these for engineering works and send RK a list of sites that were suitable for survey. It was noted that any new fixed sites would be digital.

Action: All LA's

b. Signage

AB advised all signing was completed on the A696 route and enforcement can begin.

RK asked for a group opinion on camera warning signs at public concern sites. Recently the public have enquired as to why there are not warning signs on all public concern sites; RK queried whether this would lead to too much clutter. It was decided to leave the policy unchanged for the time being. RK also pointed out the renewed contract for rotating VAS would be £125. If any of the authorities wanted to join the scheme the initiative would pay the revenue and the authority would pay for the posts.

c. Digitisation

At the last working group meeting a recommendation was to be put to the Steering Group that the partnership carries on digitisation as planned; this was refused. The Steering Group decided it was not good business sense to invest in digitisation until a commitment was made from the DfT on the future of the partnerships. . If no decision is made by September then the initiative will carry on. It was noted that any vandalised wet cameras will still be replaced by digital

d. Level Crossings

The introduction of the camera at Callerton Parkway has showed a reduction in the total number of weekly activations when compared to the baseline period.

5. DfT Returns

JF currently producing a report to DfT to highlight how investment has been spent by the partnership. Report is due end of February and a final draft will be submitted to Steering Group in meeting 26th January

Report highlights:

- Partnership: governance and funding
- Operations and performance: enforcements and other offences using mobile technology twice as many as Northumbria Police e.g. no seatbelts, VRM, mobiles
- ETP: Communications, speed awareness, education training, publicity

- variety: data research before, during and after; regional data in-house and university. LTP and additional funding; NDORS, new road safety ideas
- Casualty reductions, route enforcement, PAS websites
- JB requested if the document could be circulated around the working group before the steering group. RK advised it would more likely be circulated around the same time

6. NDORS Surplus Fund

By October 2009, six applications were received with all but one funded by the scheme. Applications are decided through a committee of five representatives. It was requested that any other bids should be received by end of March 2010. RK advised a decision should be made as to informing those that have been successful but also whether to circulate to the group those that were rejected; how much feedback to the group will improve the quality of further bids. JF requested that the group check ongoing schemes to avoid duplication and also the possibility of sharing

7. Finance

Quarter 3 claims were requested as soon as possible; Newcastle had yet to claim at all this year.

Quarter 2 actuals change in variance due to a formula error. There will be a £100k surplus by the end of the year depending on the cost of hardening sites and police expenditure. RK queried whether DB and JF wage was included in figures. GD to look into it

Action: GD

8. Communications

Last years activities were thought to be successful with high level communications campaigns and around 45 events occurring in the area. The annual market research would be available shortly. JF informed the group that the marketing plan would also be available shortly as it is still in development. Some of the proposals include a similar level of events although some had been cancelled in favour of other events that were more appropriate.

JF informed the group to hold a Road Respect City event, initially launching in Newcastle due to its central geographical location. The intention is to hold the event sometime in April or May.

There are several projects being developed that will integrate with other initiatives around the region and would tie in with other transport related issues.

9. Tyne and Wear LTP Update

LTP2 progressing to plan and will end March 2011

Currently developing LTP 3. A draft should be ready for this summer to submit by March 2011 and to start April 2011. There will be no reward funding for LTP 3.

A new software, Limehouse, has been purchased to make creating documents easier. LTP currently redesigning website with the view to adding the software.

10. Any other business

There was no other business

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday 25th March 2010, 10am Saltwell Room, Gateshead Civic Centre