

# Northumbria Safety Camera Partnership

## Minutes of Working Group Meeting

05 July 2007

### Gateshead Civic Centre Development & Enterprise

#### Present:

Ray King	Project Manager (Chair)
Jeremy Forsberg	Communications Manager
Danny Barker	Data Support Officer
Kelly Wilson (KW(F))	Gateshead Council (Finance)
Neil Frier	Gateshead Council
Neil Thorpe	Newcastle University
Kevin Wellden (KW(NP))	Northumbria Police
Peter Morris	Highways Agency
Alan Bawn	Northumberland County Council
Rohail Ahmed	LTP Core Team
Mark Wilson	LTP Core Team
Kevin Broadband	South Tyneside Council
Hazel Walton	City of Sunderland Council

#### Apologies:

Derek Ord	Newcastle City Council
Sia Mahmoodshahi	South Tyneside Council
Denise Newman	HMCS
Andrew Farquhar	HMCS
Paul Fleming	North Tyneside Council

## 2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true account of proceedings.

## 3. Matter arising

None.

## 4. Project issues & progress

RK stated that it was too early for an accurate financial update for quarter 1 and performance figures are likely to be available for distribution by the end of July.

VAS Update: All permanent signs have now been installed by the contractors. The sleeves/posts for the variable position signs are likely to be installed and

in place by late next week. All local authorities are welcome to join the partnership's rotation scheme at a cost of £90 per rotation, this cost would be met by the partnership for this year and the authority installing the equipment would meet capital costs. Otherwise the cost of rotation would be £250 if local authorities went by themselves. The partnership would also incur any costs associated with maintenance and vandalism if a local authority chose to join its scheme.

RK noted that a bollard on Silksworth Terrace, Sunderland needs to be removed but will be replaced by the VAS post.

VAS Trailers: The partnership owns two VAS trailers, which display the 30mph roundel. These are ready to be moved around the region to any 30mph roads that the local authorities wish and deem appropriate. RK requested that any appropriate roads be forwarded to either himself or DB.

**Action: All LA's**

## **5. Steering group update**

The last steering group meeting, chaired by Nick Clennett, was held on 8 May 2007 at Gateshead Civic Centre. At this meeting all policies put forward by the working group were approved and signed off. Also the working group were issued the task of widening the partnership's performance indicators to encompass more aspects of their work.

## **6. Public concern site procedures**

The group were issued with flowcharts showing the current process for handling camera requests from various third parties including the public. These requests, if successful, become public concern sites which the partnership enforce 15% of the time.

NF noted that if it was a standard speeding problem then he would generally pass it to the partnership, however, often speeding problems need to be tackled at certain times of the day and in these instance he would go to Gateshead's local area command for assistance.

It was decided that RK needed to make some amendments to the flow charts and then distribute to both the working group and also a wider audience including road safety departments.

**Action: RK**

## **7. TSRGD consultation**

DfT have issued a consultation document regarding amendments made to the signing rules that were issued 30 June 2006. These rules meant that a driver must be able to see the camera, a camera warning sign, and a speed limit repeater sign all in the same line of vision. Amendments to this have been made.

RK would respond on behalf of the partnership and agree the amendments.

## **8. Finance**

In 06/07 the partnership's overall costs were £2.52m, this was below the £2.58m as predicted in the operational case. With DfT still owing the partnership £195K subject to audit. The claim was sent to the audit commission on 30 June and will be returned to DfT by 30 September 2007 subject to the audit.

On 18 May 2007 the partnership received the Tyne & Wear LTP £1.8m grant funding from DfT. With all surpluses being paid out to the appropriate local authorities, including the LTP top slice.

KW(F) stated that an invoice has been sent to Northumberland for their funding but no return had yet been received. AB noted that it required approval from their Chief Executive.

Quarter 1 position will be reported to all partners once all claims have been received.

## **9. Communications**

The partnership's Road Respect campaign has received a lot of free advertising in recent weeks. In particular 13 editorials by the Evening Chronicle discussing all aspects of the campaign, which would normally have cost around £80k.

As part of the Road Respect campaign it is hoped that David Milliband MP would issue a letter to all large North East firms asking them to sign up to the Road Respect Charter.

The programme of summer road shows is currently on going. So far the partnership has attended various locations including the Metro Centre and the Northumberland Show, in a bid to raise awareness of the campaign. By the end of the summer the partnership will have took part in at least one event per local authority. KB asked if the partnership could attend a consultation event in September/October to help raise awareness of road safety, JF confirmed he could.

With the partnership's change in scope to a wider road safety remit it was agreed that a new name might be required. This name would show that the partnership is stepping away from dealing solely with cameras. Several new names were suggested but the group decided upon 'Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative'. It was agreed that the group should consult with colleagues and confirm that there are no objections to this name change.

## **10. Site selection update**

After consultation with each local authority, 80 possible new camera sites were identified that met the collision criteria laid out by the partnership. These sites were then put out to survey, with 17 meeting both the collision criteria and the speed criteria, of which one site met the criteria for a fixed camera. All local authorities must confirm that no engineering works are planned for the near future, site certificates will be issued to all and need to be signed off as soon as possible. DB would also issue all local authorities with the speed survey results from all possible sites that were identified.

**Action: DB**

All local authorities agreed to North Tyneside carrying out the signing work and to TADU placing the permanent loops, providing they let each local authority know when they are carrying out the work.

RK and DB have planned to visit all possible new sites with both the enforcement sergeant and a member of the TADU team. These visits are to assess parking requirements, signage, and loop cutting. DB will send all local authorities drawings of the proposed signage at new sites and if all is well send them on to North Tyneside to carry out the work.

**Action: DB**

AB requested a separate visit to the possible new fixed site in Seghill.

KB commented that South Tyneside had plans for works on A184 and that it would be best to confirm which section of road had been identified as a new site.

**Action: DB**

## **11. Performance indicators**

At the last steering group performance indicators, identified by the working group, were put forward for approval. It was felt by the steering group that these could be broadened to not only incorporate casualty reduction but good working practices also. KW(NP) and RK arrived at 3 extra performance indicators, shown below, which were approved by the group. These were:

- Number of days enforcement per month at fixed camera sites.
- Number of hours enforcement per month at mobile camera sites.
- Number of reports/issues resolved with regard to speed complaints.

## **12. Predicted expenditure 08/09**

A spreadsheet showing the predicted expenditure for 08/09 was distributed to the group. This showed the total predicted expenditure at around £2.11m. It is expected that the steering group will approve these costs in September at their next meeting.

RK has meetings arranged with both Northumbria Police and HMCS in order to confirm these figures are accurate. Also any Tyne & Wear LTP top slicing which have to be confirmed.

As the partnership is now funded by a grant, KW(F) confirmed that surplus funds could be rolled forward to the following year.

MW queried the £250k increase in 'IT Capital Requirements' for 08/09. RK explained this was due to an ongoing police IT contract which the partnership primarily used and so were required to fund. RK and KW(NP) agreed that more detail was required for this.

**Action: RK & KW(NP)**

### **13. Any other business**

MW requested that a member of the Networking group be invited to the next meeting.

PM commented on the positive articles that the speed awareness courses are generating. NT asked if there was any data available on re-offending rates of people who had attended the course. Since this is a fairly new scheme the only partnership that is likely to have any meaningful data is Thames Valley.

KW(NP) informed the group that the Chief Constable had received information regarding the possibility of covert camera enforcement and asked the group its views on the subject. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

### **14. Date of next meeting**

The next working group meeting will be 9.30am on Thursday 13 September 2007, Development and Enterprise, meeting room 6, Gateshead Civic Centre.