

Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative

Minutes of Working Group Meeting

17th September 2009

Scottish Life House
Newcastle

Present:

Ray King	Chair
Danny Barker	Regional Data Analyst
Sara Smith	Senior Support Assistant
Neil Frier	Gateshead Council
Bryan Mullan	Newcastle City Council
Alan Bawn	Northumberland County Council
Neil Fraser	Northumberland Police
Neil Thorpe	Newcastle University
Denise Newman	HMCS
Paul Fleming	North Tyneside Council
Peter Morris	Highways Agency

Apologies:

Sia Mahmoodshahi	South Tyneside Council
Jeremy Forsberg	Communications Manager
Yvonne Hall	Finance
Alan Calvert	Sunderland City Council

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

3. Matters Arising

Site Hardening and Grass Crete

All Local Authorities are to check which sites need hardening before next meeting.

Action: All LAs

Site Certificates

Only Newcastle site certificates for new camera sites are still to be returned.

Action: BM

4. Project Issues and Progress

a. Site selection

The new cluster analysis is currently in progress. A list will be sent shortly to local authorities of clusters which have not been surveyed in previous batch and then to identify which sites need surveys before Christmas. Site visits and signage will then follow for sites that meet the criteria and are duly selected.

Action: DB & SS

b. Roadworks

The speed enforcement on the A1 Western Bypass was successful. The speed survey received for the live pair of cameras centred around 38mph. RK requested if Highways Agency could identify traffic flow

Action: PM

c. NSRI Steering Group Report – Deployment & Activation Levels 08/09
SLA set a hard target so report shows low mobile enforcement levels for first 6 months. Deployments for fixed camera sites were well on target.

5. DfT Future Funding

RSS Project Managers Conference on 15th September DfT announced that there will be future funding but are unsure of the funding levels. A decision could be announced by next September. RK suggested that the partnership hold off on digitisation throughout next year with the view that if DfT announced insufficient partnership funding then the partnership would have money available for any agreed exit strategy.

NFraser queried if it was not feasible to go digital now as this was the plan for the partnership for spring 2010 after already waiting 12 month to access the products available on the market. PF, NFrier, AB and PM agreed that support for the continuation of the partnership had been given by DfT therefore based on this evidence the partnership should continue as planned with digitisation. It was therefore requested by the working group that the recommendation to go to tender with digitisation.

Agreed: Recommendation put to Steering Group that the partnership carries on digitisation as planned.

6. NDORS Surplus Fund

Bids must be made for capped amount. RK stated no bids can be put forward for new speed cameras as this would be seen as self funding the scheme, however, they can for red light cameras which incur no invitation to the NDORS scheme. Deadline for 25% cap bids deadline: Monday 28th September. Several members of the group knew of schemes that were to be bid soon.

The current form has caused some complications and will be revised. NT reiterated that bids can only be made for what funds have already accumulated. PF queried if VAS sign for Battle Hill was still an option and RK confirmed that it was.

Action: RK

7. Finance

NSRI first quarter 2009/10 figures shows full recruitment in the police; HMCS should come in under budget and project office has allowed for over spend in staff costs. A contingency has been allowed for digitisation as expenses for local authorities.

The proposed budget for 2010/11 was presented (attached at Appendix A). There is some virement between items of expenditure, however overall expenditure does not exceed the levels agreed in the SLA. It was agreed that this budget proposal be recommended to the Steering Group.

8. Communications

A Young Driver Toolkit will be available to all partners and stake-holders which will look at ways to target young drivers in the area. This project will be open across the police force area. The toolkit will be flexible and have a range of content including lesson plans, activities, video content and presentations. A consultation was circulated, with an extension to 25th September, once concluded, development will begin.

JF is currently working with Northumberland CC on several motorcycle projects providing rider training, seminars and the development of the Ride Respect website.

We are currently in the final stretch of road shows, touring colleges and universities. The shows have gone very well and every local authority has had numerous events so far.

The Road Respect campaign has been given a Commendation from the Prince Michael of Kent International Road Safety Awards.

The campaign is also a finalist in the Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards for best Integrated Marketing Campaign.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 12th November 2009, 10am at Newcastle Civic Centre (Room TBA)

Action:BM

