

Subject:	Brighton & Hove City Council : Road Safety Audit Policy		
Date of Meeting:	1st July 2014		
Report of:	Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Martin Heath	Tel: 293078
	Email:	martin.heath@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) is a preventative road safety discipline that has been an established, formal practice in the UK since 1990. It involves the independent evaluation of proposed road improvement schemes to ensure that the road safety implications are considered and addressed at key stages in the design process and during construction.
- 1.2 Road Safety Audit is also a globally recognised road safety management practice, a mandatory requirement for EU Member States with respect to the Trans-European Road Network and also for the UK motorway and trunk road network managed by the Highways Agency. A national design standard HD19 sets out the UK's established method of undertaking Road Safety Audits and is commended to local road authorities for use on their own roads.
- 1.3 Road Safety Audit policies demonstrate how local road authorities meet their statutory duties under Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to take steps to prevent collisions from occurring on their road network. They also provide a high value mechanism for ensuring that the best road safety performance is achieved from all relevant road improvement, traffic engineering and transportation projects.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee approves the adoption of the Road Safety Audit Policy.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Council does not currently have an adopted policy for the way it commissions and undertakes road safety audit on projects within the city. Whilst the principles and objectives of HD19 are recognised and applied on most schemes prepared by the Council and also frequently sought from external organisations promoting development-related road improvements, the procedure and standards set out in HD19 are not directly relevant to the traffic and road safety conditions that exist on city roads.
- 3.2 As a result, the time and financial implications of securing independent road safety audits can have a significant impact on scheme cost, delivery programmes and road safety performance. The adoption of a formal policy for Road Safety Audit practice will ensure consistent application of collision prevention techniques on all relevant projects planned and constructed in the city, both for those schemes generated by the Council and those promoted by others.
- 3.3 Recent amendments to the UK HD19 Standard to meet EU Directive requirements for Road Safety Audit advocate the use of professionally qualified RSA teams, holding recognised qualifications and the adoption of a formal three-stage procedure within the planning and design process for all relevant schemes. Brighton & Hove City Council officers have played a key consultation role in the development of the new standard.
- 3.4 The proposed RSA policy sets out the stages and procedures required by the City Council to ensure internationally recognised standards are achieved, whilst ensuring they are commensurate and relevant to the conditions affecting city roads. The formal adoption of local policies by local highway authorities, setting out how they achieve the standards set in national guidance is advocated across the profession.
- 3.5 The proposed policy meets national guidance set out in HD19 and will ensure both consistency of application and sustainability of service delivery within current financial budgets.
- 3.6 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the publication adoption of the new Road Safety Audit Policy for Brighton & Hove City Council.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 This Road Safety Audit Policy will apply city-wide and therefore no Ward Councillors have been consulted individually.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

There no adverse financial implications arising from the adoption of this policy and the costs associated with the delivery of the services will be met from within current budgets. The potential for savings in public expenditure is expected to arise from the adoption of a continual improvement management process.

Finance Officer Consulted: Jeff Coates

Date: 23/06/14

Legal Implications:

The Road Safety Audit Policy upholds and supports the council's statutory duties for collision reduction and prevention. The process also has potential to reduce the Council's risks arising from highway liability claims.

Lawyer Consulted: Katie Matthews

Date: 23/06/14

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Road Safety Audit Policy does not require a change to existing strategy and therefore no Equalities Impact Assessment is required.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The Road Safety Audit Policy will be delivered through a quality management system process that ensures continual improvement of services and procedures, supporting its sustainability.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 There are no strategic implications for the prevention of crime and disorder to be gained from the adoption of this policy

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Road Safety Audit Policy ensures that the risks to citizen safety and health imposed by road traffic injury are minimised through the delivery of integrated Council services that identify the causes and opportunities for collision prevention.

5.9 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The proposed adoption of the Road Safety Audit Policy will support the achievement of Council corporate objectives for tackling inequality; creating a more sustainable city; engaging people who live and work in the city; and modernising the council. The city-wide application of the policy will ensure that all council services are provided routinely and consistently on all road and traffic schemes in the city, optimising the road safety benefits that they already and potentially could achieve.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

Not applicable

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

To secure formal adoption of a policy for the delivery of Council services to demonstrate effective execution of statutory duties set out in the Road Traffic Act 1988.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. None

Documents in Members Room:

1. Road Safety Audit Policy