

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

20 APRIL 2017

**REPORT OF CRIME AND DISORDER
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

**Access, Communities & Community Safety – Lead Cabinet Member - Cllr Steve Nelson
Environment and Transport – Lead Cabinet Member - Cllr Mike Smith**

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SAFETY OF RAILWAY CROSSING POINTS

1. Summary

The attached report presents the Crime and Disorder Select Committee findings and recommendations following the Scrutiny Review of the Safety of Railway Crossing Points.

2. Recommendations

- (1) That a communication strategy be developed to raise awareness of the safety risks at crossing points and promote responsible behaviour utilising social media channels as appropriate.
- (2) That the Council raise awareness in primary and secondary schools as part of initiatives such as Crucial Crew and the Junior Road Safety Officer to complement the work of the British Transport Police.
- (3) That a road rail liaison group be established comprising representatives from the Council, Network Rail and the British Transport Police to improve communication between the various agencies, including:
 - discussion of concerns
 - identifying improvements to crossings
 - sharing intelligence including intelligence about anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of crossings
 - providing an interface between all agencies
 - discussion of road classifications
 - sharing timescales for programmes of work
 - co-ordinating activity in relation to national and local awareness campaigns

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2015/16.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct

and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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DETAIL

1 Level crossings provide a means for vehicles, pedestrians and animals to cross over railway lines. Nationally there are around 7000 level crossings in active use on Network Rail managed infrastructure. Of these approximately 1500 are on public vehicular roads and the remainder are where public footpaths, bridleways and private roads/tracks cross the railway. Some private vehicular crossings have public footpath or bridleway rights. In Stockton there are eight highway level crossings.

2. The main issues which were being examined by the Select Committee were:
 - The safety and general management of railway crossing points (both vehicular and pedestrian)
 - Concerns about the safety of pedestrians, road users, and train staff and passengers
 - Anti-social behaviour at Crossing Points
3. In order to inform the review evidence has been taken from:
 - James Perkins, Route Level Crossing Manager – North London North Eastern & East Midlands Route
 - David Guy, the local Level Crossing Manager for the area
 - Joanne Roberts – Traffic and Network Safety Manager - Stockton Borough Council
 - Steven Hume – Community Safety and Strategy Service Manager – Stockton Borough Council

COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4. This report is not subject to an Impact Assessment at this stage.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

8. The review seeks to support the Council's objectives of:
 - Ensure our residents are safe
 - Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

9. The Committee have received evidence as set out in the final report of the Select Committee.

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Education related? No

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property None