

SSC/12/09

Policy & Scrutiny Committee Safer and Stronger Communities

Date of meeting 20 November 2009

Two wheeler road safety

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Background

The scrutiny of road safety comes within the remit of this Committee. Given the breadth of the subject, the Committee has agreed that it should look at one particular aspect in depth. Two wheeler road safety has been chosen, as it is a matter of concern given the number of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured each year on Essex roads. In this respect two wheeler includes any powered transport such as motorcycles, scooters and mopeds – it does not include pedal cycles.

A scoping document for the scrutiny has been drawn up to reflect Members concerns (annex A). Some background information is attached as annexes B and C.

Scrutiny process

The Network and Safety Manager for the County Council, Rosemary Welch, will appear as the Committee's first witness. She will describe the Council's existing road safety policy and set in context priority activities where improvements are being sought.

Supporting statistical evidence will be provided by a second witness, Helen Baggett, Road Safety Data Analyst in Highways and Transportation.

These officers will explain how the work being undertaken on most of the priority activities is leading to clear improvements but how the programme to improve safety levels amongst motorcyclists in the county still needs more work.

They will then go on to explain the Council's current action plan to improve two wheeler safety.

Members are invited to raise any questions about the general policy and statistical data at this stage.

Road safety is an issue involving joint work between a number of statutory agencies in the county. The Council's officers will describe how the agencies work together and will invite additional input from colleagues from other services. Members may wish to put any questions to officers to respond to as a 'panel', given the multi agency nature of the work.

The way forward

At this stage the Committee is invited to consider whether there are any other witnesses it would wish to seek views from. Given the nature of this scrutiny, the witnesses sought for this meeting have been from the statutory agencies as it they who dictate policy.

The Committee is also invited to indicate whether it would wish to receive any further written or statistical evidence.

The minutes of this meeting will be prepared and Members will then be invited to consider them and any other oral or written evidence at its meeting on 11 December, prior to reaching conclusions later on in that meeting.
