



Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership – Funding Allocation For 2007/2008

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The government have made significant changes to the way Safety Camera Partnership will be funded from April 2007. These changes aim to ensure that partnerships focus on casualty reduction.
- 1.2 £440,000 has been identified as likely to be allocated to the Council, as part of its Local Transport Plan annual settlement, to continue to reduce road casualties in 2007/08. This allocation is based on the expected operating costs of the Safety Camera Partnership.
- 1.3 Government are encouraging local authorities to develop broader strategies aimed at reducing road casualties and this is something I support. The current Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership has been very successful in reducing casualties and the continued operation of safety cameras, in appropriate locations, must be included in any future strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet supports the continued funding of the Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership in order to achieved reductions in road casualties.
- 2.2 That Cabinet support the development of a wider casualty reduction partnership to maximise achievements and encourage partner agencies to contribute including financially.
- 2.3 That the funding allocation for Casualty reduction, awarded to the Council as part of its 2007/08 Local Transport Plan, be pass-ported to the Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. It is important that we recognise the achievements of the Safety Camera Partnership in reducing accidents. Continuing funding the partnership in 2007/08 will ensure the achievements are maintained and will allow time to develop a wider Community Reduction Strategy.



DERBYSHIRE SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP FUNDING ALLOCATION 2007/08

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership was first set up in 2001. Central Government encouraged local authorities and police forces to work together to target casualty reduction through safety camera enforcement. A system of 'Fine Netting' enabled partnerships to use income generated by safety camera enforcement to be recycled by the partnerships to enable continued and further enforcement.
- 1.2 Working within the strict guidance set by the Department for Transport the partnership has been successful in addressing road casualties in Derby and across Derbyshire. Information indicating the success of the partnership in reducing accidents in Derby is available through the Council's information system CMIS.
- 1.3 Although successful in reducing road casualties safety cameras have consistently been criticised by some sections of the media and by some members of the public. As a consequence the government has reviewed the operation of safety cameras and have, with effect from April 2007, made significant changes.
- 1.4 The 'Fine Netting' approach is to be ended From 1 April 2007 and all income from safety camera operations will go to the Treasury. In this way the government is encouraging partnership to focus purely on casualty reduction with no links to income generation. To ensure that casualty reduction benefits achieved by Safety Camera Partnerships are retained, the government has made additional monies, in the form of revenue and capital allocations within the Local Transport Plan, available to local authorities. It is proposed, at least for 2007/2008, to ensure that this funding is allocated to the partnership
- 1.5 The Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership, having been in existence for some 5 years is a mature partnership between the City Council, Derbyshire Constabulary, Derbyshire County Council, Highways Agency, Derbyshire Magistrates Service, and the Crown Prosecution Service. The majority of the partnerships activities are in connection with the continued operation of the safety cameras with most of the costs falling to Derbyshire Constabulary. Ensuring that sufficient funding is available to continue with the current levels of enforcement is clearly important. The partnership requires approximately £2.1 million to maintain current levels of operational activity. This funding has been allocated by the government in the form of additional money contained within the Local Transport Plan allocations for both ourselves and Derbyshire County Council. The County Council has indicated that it is also their intention to passport their funding allocations to the partnership in 2007/08.

- 1.6 The government is encouraging local authorities to develop partnerships based on casualty reduction. The implications for future Local Transport Plan funding allocations are that funding levels will likely be linked to performance in this area. Safety Cameras will inevitably continue to play a part in casualty reduction but we must challenge ourselves to ensure that we use resources in the most effective way. With this in mind a discussion paper, which is available through the Council's information system, CMIS, has been produced suggesting how we may develop a wide remit partnership to focus on road casualty reduction.
- 1.7 The proposal is to establish a partnership which would report through the Local Strategic Partnerships for Derby and Derbyshire. In this setting the newly formed partnership would need to maintain existing effective operations, such as the Safety Camera Partnership, but also create new linkages perhaps with other partners including health trusts and the fire and ambulance services. As part of this approach it is proposed that a partnership manager would be appointed to ensure effective coordination of these diverse activities. This post would initially be funded from the LTP allocation and the post holder would be managed by a group of senior officers from the partnering organisations. The intention is also that the partnership should be accountable to the Derby City Partnership.
- 1.8 We hope to develop the options for a wider partnership further in the coming months and report to Cabinet in early 2007.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2. To cut funding to the Safety Camera Partnership, without an alternative casualty reduction strategy, would not be appropriate. Consequently no other options have been considered at this stage.

For more information contact:	David Gartside 01332 715025 e-mail david.gartside@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 The funding required to support the operations of the current Safety Camera Partnership during 2007/2008 will be allocated to the Council as part of its 2007/08 Local Transport Plan grant.
- 1.2 It is for the Council to determine how best to allocate this funding. The report makes it clear that allocating the funding to the Safety Camera Partnership is the most effective way to achieve Casualty reduction.

Legal

- 2.1 The Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership operates under a framework set out in a Memorandum of Understanding between the three senior partners namely ourselves, Derbyshire Constabulary and Derbyshire County Council. Each partner shares equal risk from the operation of the partnership.

Personnel

3. The majority of staff employed through the Derbyshire Safety Camera Partnership are employed by Derbyshire Constabulary. By continuing with current funding and operational levels these roles will, in the short term, be unaffected. Although most staff are employed by the constabulary any financial matters arising from a change in staffing levels will need to be funded by the partnership and hence this authority.

Equalities impact

- 4 None.

Corporate Priorities

5. The proposal comes under the Council's objective of building healthy and independent communities.