

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL

16 DECEMBER 2009

REPORT OF REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIEIS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Report prepared by Esther Bell

1. Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review

1.1 Issue for Decision

- 1.1.1 To consider the 'Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review' report attached at **Appendix A**.

1.2 Recommendation of Overview and Scrutiny Officer

- 1.2.1 That 'Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review' report be noted.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 1.3.1 The Maidstone Borough Council Constitution states "within their terms of reference Overview and Scrutiny Committees will make reports and/or recommendations to full Council and/or the Executive and/or any other Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions" (Part One, Article 6:02(b))
- 1.3.2 The Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed at its meeting on 29 September 2009 to present its 'Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review' report to Full Council, given that this was where the idea to review road safety had initiated from. The relevant extract of the minutes of the meeting is as follows:
- "A Councillor highlighted the importance of the Road Safety Review and the Committee agreed it would be worthwhile to present the report to Full Council, as this was where the topic had been initiated."*
- 1.3.3 At Full Council on 27 February 2008, Miss Clare Burtwell asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment regarding road safety. This, along with the release of the 2007 crash statistics showing Maidstone's road safety as the poorest in Kent, raised

considerable concern amongst Members, and the Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a Road Safety Working Group to review national and local road safety issues.

1.3.4 The attached report presents the findings of the Working Group. Members asked each witness what they would like to be done to improve road safety in Maidstone and the recommendations were formulated from the responses.

1.3.5 The review is a Member-led initiative. Some of the recommendations regarding Council arrangements require further exploration with Human Resources and it should be noted that the report does not include costs. The Working Group felt that its suggestions and recommendations were a helpful starting point in attempting to address key road safety issues in Maidstone.

1.4 Alternative Action and why not Recommended

1.4.1 The Council could choose not to receive the 'Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review' report, however this could diminish knowledge of the work of the Committee.

1.5 Impact on Corporate Objectives

1.5.1 The Council's Strategic Plan 2009-12 lists "working in partnership to address issues of road safety" as a key objective within the "Crime, Confidence and Safety" topic. The recommendations within the report contribute to the fulfillment of this objective.

1.5.2 The Council is also signed up to the Kent Agreement 2 which includes a commitment to improve performance against NI47: "people killed and seriously injured in road traffic accidents". Maidstone Borough Council is one of the statutory partners listed to help the Kent Partnership, achieve a 45% reduction in the number of people killed and seriously injured in road crashes by 1st January 2011, compared with the 1994 and 1998 average.

1.6 Risk Management

1.6.1 There are no risks associated with the Council noting the 'Fit for the Road – Maidstone Road Safety Review' report.

1.7 Other Implications [Insert an 'X' in the boxes below to indicate if the recommendations will have any implications in the specified area]

1.7.1

1. Financial
2. Staffing
3. Legal
4. Social Inclusion
5. Environmental/Sustainable Development
6. Community Safety
7. Human Rights Act
8. Procurement
9. Asset Management

1.8 Background Documents

1.8.1 None.

NO REPORT WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THIS BOX BEING COMPLETED

Is this a Key Decision? Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, when did it appear in the Forward Plan? _____

Is this an Urgent Key Decision? Yes ☐ No ☒

Reason for Urgency

N/a