

Governance Board Meeting

Summary of Discussion and Resolutions

Date:	Wednesday 18 th October 2023
Time:	10.00 - 13.00
Venue:	Audi, Cuton Hall Lane, Chelmsford
Chairperson:	Cllr L Scott
Attendees:	
Roger Hirst (RH)	Police Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex (PFCC)
Cllr L Scott (Cllr LS)	Cabinet Member for Highway Maintenance and Sustainable Transport (ECC)
A Pipe (AP)	Head of Roads Policing - Essex Police
P Stinger (PS)	Superintendent Essex Police (Roads)
I Adams (IA)	Assistant Director Prevention-Protection Essex Fire & Rescue Service
Simon Butt	Operations Director, Ringway Jacobs (Essex Highways)
Andrea MacAlister (AM)	Acting Head of Prevention - Essex Fire & Rescue Service
Gavin Ellis (GE)	Acting Head of Road and Water safety (EF&RS)
N Foster (NJF)	SERP - Strategic Group Chairperson
W Cubbin (WC)	SERP - Partnership Manager
C Churchouse (CC)	SERP - Communications Manager
S Hammill (SH)	SERP – Communications Manager (maternity cover)
Suzanne Harris (SH)	PFCC office
Nav Tung (NT)	Thurrock Council
Apologies:	M Woodford (SRF), N Allsopp (NH), P Crick (ECC), A Clothier (NH), R Nolan (EP), B. Myers (E&HAAT), L Seager (NH), J Heynes (EH), W Newman (EF&RS)

Item No	Discussion and Resolution	Action Owner
1	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies:</p> <p>Cllr LS welcomed everyone to Audi and introductions were made. Apologies recorded above.</p>	
2	<p>Presentation by Audi of vehicle safety features with Q and A</p> <p>This thought provoking and discussion generating presentation covered many facts and projections around the present and future of electric vehicles.</p> <p>Audi (Germany) research the causes of collisions and design safety features accordingly.</p> <p>Huge amounts of staff and site safety training are undertaken around use of lithium-ion batteries.</p> <p>Audi's have an embedded safety SIM card but due to GDPR this cannot be used as a tracker if a vehicle is stolen. However, security is always being improved.</p> <p>Discussion around whether drivers become reliant on technology and are less able to cope either without it, or when it fails. Learning to drive will be a very different experience now due to the assistance provided by vehicles and automation.</p> <p>Police unable to purchase vehicles in which they can switch off safety features, so we'll have to change their driving and techniques. Same applies to the fire service. Police PPE requirements and isolation of EVs recovered will be discussed with fire service.</p> <p>The Board was invited to continue discussions further, and in more detail, if required and to use the venue for future meetings.</p>	
3	<p>Review of SERP Board actions and decisions from 13th July and Strategic Group Meeting from 20th September.</p> <p>Annotated notes issued for both meetings. There being no questions or corrections the Board meeting notes were approved for publication on the SERP website.</p>	
4	<p>Finance model and risks update</p> <p>WC clarified that the cost recovery part of the operation is designed to cover costs for processing offences resulting in an NDORS course. Any surplus from NDORS course delivery by EH provides funding for the annual delivery plan (ADP) the following year (activity A&B).</p> <p>Current projection for around 7,700 completions above original estimate but reliance on late bookings and external referrals limits our confidence in projection. Increased venue costs will reduce any surplus.</p>	

	<p>There are currently two projected significant overspends:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within Activity A on police enforcement on this year's ADP 2. Within the police cost recovery model. <p>To mitigate 1, overtime planning and administration has been restructured and EP confident ADP will be delivered, and budget will not be overspent by year end.</p> <p>For item 2, the police cost recovery model shows the predicted £450k surplus is now predicted to be a ~£280k deficit. Staff costs are higher than originally projected because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7% staff pay award from September 2023. - Vacancies not filled due to long delays in vetting leading to large overtime spend (£30k per month). <p>To quantify the £278k deficit, it would require an additional 15,400 NiPS over the next 5 months to result in 6,174 course completions in Essex to mitigate.</p> <p>AP has 4 temp staff due to start but has had 21 vacancies and vetting taking 9 months so recruits cannot wait for the employment. Increased postage costs may add to the pressure. Looking at outsourcing postage and introducing system for online nominations. UKROEd may review the £45 recharge to see if it needs to be increased; but not for some time having reviewed it earlier this year.</p> <p>Action taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SERP board advised. • Revised NIP target calculated and shared as one possible mitigation. • Detailed briefing paper provided to Adam Pipe <p>HOTA (Home Office Type Approval) is yet to be established for Gatso systems operating over the 4G network. 3G due to begin switch-off towards the end of 2023 Testing protocol set by DSTL far in excess of original HOTA testing and not viable for supplier. All hardware is already approved, just not operation in 4G mode.</p> <p>To mitigate this risk, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New routers now in place and capable of operating in 4G. Will roam on 3G to find any available operator. • Been informed that 4G testing is complete – awaiting report and subsequent Home Office decision on type approval. <p>Actions: WC to inform RH when HOTA is approved to allow RH to write and thank Home Secretary.</p>	WC
5	<p>Consideration of financial contribution to Local Highways Authorities for safety camera renewal programme</p> <p>To mitigate the risk of not receiving HOTA approval as detailed in item 4, the Strategic group suggested that the Board might wish to consider offering some funding from the asset renewal fund to Essex County Council (and the other local Authorities) as an incentive for the delivery</p>	

of a capital programme of Gatso camera replacement to ensure continuity of enforcement/safety.

- If HOTA approved, then Gatso upgrades could wait for between 5 to 8 years.
- Red light camera HOTA being done separately with unknown timescale. 8 out of 17 red light sites in ECC out of action due to LED upgrades, with more due to be upgraded.
- SERP has £1.6m to replace 40 speed and 11 red light Gatso cameras when they reach end of life. These are the cameras and not the housings. The cameras are rotated around 98 speed and 29 RLC sites.
- 71% of speed, 59% of RLC and 69% of all sites are in ECC area.
- Replacing some Gatso sites reduces required budget for asset renewal fund but no more than 69% of fund should be spent on renewing ECC assets.
- Hypothetically spending £500k now, if match funded by ECC, could replace up to 20 sites (16% of sites for 31% of fund) but SERP has insufficient funds to match fund replacement of all sites so can only offer a contribution on the basis all sites will be renewed eventually.
- Upgraded cameras will:
 - Reduce staff time spent on moving and keying cameras.
 - Always be live.
 - Reduce maintenance costs, especially on RLC sites as no secondary check markings and no need for loops.
 - Be more resilient to vandalism.
 - Less prone to blocking by vegetation and parking.
 - Prolong time to obsolescence as new technology
 - Spread risk across different camera types
 - Partial upgrade will allow the existing Gatso cameras to be deployed across the remaining housings thereby increasing the number of live sites OR prolonging the service life of current camera stock.
- If all sites upgraded, then Asset Renewal Fund not needed.
- Replacing all Gatso *cameras* cost = £1.6m BUT upgrading all Gato *sites* cost = £6.35m.
- SERP MoU states highway authority responsible for safety camera site upgrades.
- Could be argued ECC 'entitled' to 69% of asset renewal fund (£1.1m) – but only if all assets are renewed. Otherwise, a proportion must be retained to replace the cameras as required.

AP suggested that this would be a good opportunity to review the existing sites and cameras to understand whether different locations or camera types would deliver greater reduction in risks and injuries to support Vision Zero.

Installing new or different cameras is a different issue with increased costs. Safety at existing sites is proven. It is not known whether removal of a housing at a site will have a detrimental effect on speeds and safety.

National revision of installation guidance to enable the Local authorities to review their criteria for implementation is still awaited. How might this fit into revised local hierarchy guidance and revised speed management policies?

	<p>Police are pushing for cameras to be installed with larger developments, where required, to reduce risks on links to the existing network. This should not be overlooked as an avenue for implementation of 'safer speeds'.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WC to chase timescale of awaited national guidance on safety cameras. • SERP to consider where it might want to see safety cameras and what type. <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That this issue is brought back to the Board with further information to indicate how best it might support Vision Zero. This should look at the success of existing safety cameras. 	
6	<p>To consider a recommendation from the Strategic group to fund an upgrade of the existing vacant communications assistant role.</p> <p>Under the MoU, the SERP communications function is delivered through Essex Highways. The level of support required by the Partnership to deliver Vision Zero and the mix of behavioural change campaign work and promotional/awareness, website development etc will be served by having 2 posts at the same level rather than having the approved, but vacant, assistant role. The Maternity cover role has delivered at a high level and taken Extra Eyes in house which alone is saving the increased salary requested for the upgraded role.</p> <p>Decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The funding to upgrade the existing approved SERP communications assistant role (within Essex Highways) is approved. 	
7	<p>Consideration of Board 'membership' to deliver Vision Zero</p> <p>The Board was invited to consider whether new members or guest speakers would provide insight/challenge/information to broaden the Board's and Partnership's knowledge around the layers of protection of the safe system. An approach has been made by BRAKE to join the SERP Board.</p> <p>The Board felt it needed to attract existing partners to attend meetings encouraging leadership with their organisation.</p> <p>Cllr LS offered to speak to absent partners to encourage participation. Will require briefing as to what we require from them. RH offered assistance to connect with Southend. IA offered to contact ambulance service.</p> <p>Connections with other Boards such as Criminal Justice Board (CPS, sentencing etc) and Health and wellbeing Board may be made through SERP presenting to them. No wish to make others sit through discussion irrelevant to them.</p>	

	<p>Fords at Dunton suggested as good venue and source of further knowledge around vehicle technology.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers to be prepared and sent prior to Board meetings if topics for discussion or decision to allow members to delegate attendance more easily. • Briefing note to be prepared for Cllr LS detailing the benefits to organisations, the partnership and road safety in attending Board meetings. • Cllr LS will contact Southend and Thurrock, Safer Roads Foundation and Air ambulance to encourage attendance at Board meetings. • IA will contact ambulance service to encourage attendance. <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That BRAKE be invited to present to the Board in January. • That Board members continue to review information required to take Vison Zero forward. 	<p>NJF/WC</p> <p>NJF/WC</p> <p>Cllr LS</p> <p>IA</p> <p>NJF</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Partner Updates:</p> <p>Thurrock Council (NT): looking to work more closely with maintenance team which will allow closer discussions around Vision Zero and may enable NT to persuade the assistant director to attend a board meeting. Bus company had concerning incidents with E scooters. SERP comms officer can offer help if Thurrock want comms support for messaging.</p> <p>PFCC (SH): GM/AP liaising over funding of safer streets schemes. GM/NJF liaising over providing possible work for probation scheme.</p> <p>Essex Police (AP): A12 incident caused long delays. The Traffic Management Act requires local authorities to manage traffic and arrange diversions. Nowhere To release traffic stuck on A12 and probably too late to request that NH change designs. However, we could challenge NH to think about the issue and a partnership approach.</p> <p>ECFRS (AM): Exit project awaiting clinical governance approval for whole region. Working with Essex Police to understand best practise for recovery of vehicles with lithium-ion batteries. Continue to support cruiser nights and working with modified car enthusiasts. Launch of YAK art project at Firstsite gallery in Colchester on 4th November 12-2pm. This is aimed at young artists, motorcyclists and gig economy workers.</p> <p>EH (SB): working to embed Vision Zero into design teams. NJF working with the senior management team and an external company called the Ideas Centre to generate innovative ideas. We are looking at what we can do to reduce risk, deaths and serious injuries by changing the way we design schemes. We will start the next financial year looking at things differently.</p>	<p>LS/NA</p>

<p>9</p>	<p>AOB Cllr LS expressed his thanks to the SERP team for the preparation of this meeting, to AM for facilitating the presentation by Audi and to Audi for their generous hospitality and initiation of valuable discussion.</p> <p>Item regarding implementation of Strategic Actions in the Vision Zero Strategy will be on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meetings:</p> <p>Governance Board - Jan 11th 2024 April 17th 2024</p> <p>Strategic Group – Dec 14th Kelvedon Park tbc March 6th 2024 June 12th Sept 19th Dec 11th</p>	