



Transport & Infrastructure Committee

18 September 2024

Title:	Vision Zero – Road Harm Reduction Programme Update
Report of:	Christopher Mills, Transport Programme Manager
Lead Member:	Deputy Mayor, Cllr Anna Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	Take note of the progress on the Vision Zero (VZ) programme and raise any feedback or queries to the transport team.
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Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

X	Enabling resilient communities – safer streets can enable more inclusive resilient communities by encouraging those residents who are deterred from walking and accessing community facilities due to negative impact of unsafe roads (e.g. some older and mobility impaired residents may be deterred from crossing unsafe roads).
X	Improved public health – a safer transport network will reduce road casualties and encourage active travel: walking, cycling and wheeling.
X	Supporting Good Growth – a safer more inclusive transport network enables healthier more sustainable growth by reducing the impact of road harm on communities, improving the accessibility of community services for all residents and encouraging active travel.

1. Purpose

1.1	This paper seeks to provide an update on progress of the Vision Zero programme.
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2. Background and Update

2.1 What is Vision Zero?

The purpose of the Vision Zero – Road Safety programme is to bring together the many individual road safety agencies and projects across the Combined Authority region, share ideas, assess new initiatives and provide support and funding. Its overarching aim is to provide coordination and support to a dedicated partnership of agencies involved with road safety that no one organisation could offer within their existing resources.

- Between 2014 and 2018 there was an average of 469 people killed or seriously injured (KSI) on roads in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough per year. The overall objective and long-term goal of the Vision Zero Partnership is to achieve 'Vision Zero' where no people are killed or severely seriously injured on the Combined Authority's roads by 2040.
- A medium-term goal is to halve the 2014-18 average casualty rate by 2030. That is to reduce the average annual KSI casualty rate to 234 by the year 2030.

VZ stakeholders include the police/fire emergency services, NHS, National Highways, education services, the Road Victims Trust and relevant representatives from the Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and constituent Councils. Wider engagement is also undertaken with managers of equivalent schemes in Bedfordshire, Herts and Essex to share lessons learned. Projects and initiatives include Think Bike/Biker Down (motorcycle safety awareness) road safety awareness in schools, road network enhancements and speed awareness courses. A programme of all existing, planned and new initiatives is being developed.

On her visit to Peterborough on 9th September 2024 the new Secretary of State for Transport Louise Haigh raised the importance of national road safety projects like CPCA's Vision Zero. She gave support and mentioned national policy could change to better enable progress.

Vision Zero Logo:



2.2 Background

Between 2018 and 2020 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) undertook an extensive exercise to review how its road safety plans compared to local, national, and international best-practice. The result was a Vision Zero Strategy which was developed and adopted in Summer 2020.

In detail, the aims for Vision Zero are:

- To prevent road users from being killed or seriously injured (KSI) through a coordinated approach, using Safe System principles.
- To reduce the social impact of road casualties, at an individual, family, and community level.
- To reduce the cost to public agencies in dealing with the impact of road collisions.
- To develop a financially sustainable model of delivering road safety activity across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

2.3 What we are doing

The Combined Authority is making great strides in its commitment to road safety through the refreshing of the Vision Zero programme, which aims to eliminate all fatalities and serious injuries on our roads. To drive this ambitious goal forward, Christopher Mills has been appointed as the new Transport Programme Manager, bringing fresh energy and focus to the initiative. Christopher is currently reviewing the programme, actively engaging stakeholders, and organising key Board meetings to ensure a collaborative approach to safer roads.

	<p>A milestone was reached on 21 June 2024 with the first Strategic Board Meeting of the year. At this important session, Mayor Nik Johnson was elected as Chair, and Paul Cook from the Road Victims Trust (RVT) was appointed as Vice Chair, marking a strong start to the governance of Vision Zero. With the Strategic Board set to meet quarterly, and the Vision Zero (VZ) Workstream Leads convening ahead of each Board meeting, the programme is ensuring a proactive and continuous focus on road safety.</p> <p>Key priorities for the refreshed Vision Zero programme include developing a robust plan of new and existing safety initiatives, creating a comprehensive communications strategy, and identifying targeted funding opportunities. This structured approach, driven by workstream leads, will ensure that schemes to reduce road traffic casualties are carefully prioritised and presented for approval by the Vision Zero Board.</p> <p>Once priority projects have been agreed upon, a targeted package of measures aimed at reducing deaths and serious injuries (KSIs) will be finalised. £250k of funding allocated to the road safety budget, outlined in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), will then be accessed via the SAF process to put these vital projects into action.</p> <p>In addition to the ongoing work, there has already been a noteworthy success in road safety. The local fire service recently won a prestigious national award for their pioneering tyre safety initiative, which cleverly combined a free car wash with tyre pressure and wear checks. This initiative not only increased awareness but prompted many car owners to take immediate action to ensure their tyres were safe for the road.</p> <p>The Vision Zero programme is moving forward with renewed momentum, working to make our roads safer for everyone while building on the success of innovative, community-led projects like the tyre safety initiative. The next Strategic Board meeting set for 20th September 2024 whereby the forward programme and packages of measures will be discussed in detail to enable the schemes and initiatives to be subjected to due governance through the Combined Authority channels.</p>
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3. Implications	
Financial Implications	
3.1	None
Legal Implications	
3.2	None
Public Health Implications	
3.3	<p>The Vision Zero road safety programme aims to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. It prioritises the safety of road users by focusing on better infrastructure design, stringent enforcement of traffic laws, and fostering a culture of road safety.</p> <p>By reducing traffic-related fatalities and injuries, Vision Zero directly contributes to improved public health outcomes. Fewer accidents mean reduced burdens on emergency services and healthcare systems, allowing resources to be redirected to other critical health needs. Moreover, the programme's emphasis on designing safer streets encourages active transportation modes like walking and cycling, which can increase physical activity levels, reduce obesity, and improve mental health. In urban areas, Vision Zero initiatives can also lead to reduced air pollution by discouraging excessive car use, thus lowering the incidence of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Overall, Vision Zero not only saves lives but also fosters healthier communities by promoting safer and more sustainable environments.</p>
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
3.4	By promoting safer and more efficient accessible transport systems, Vision Zero can encourage a shift towards sustainable mobility modes such as active travel and public transport that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental pollutants.

Other Significant Implications	
3.5	Delivering safer roads and transport network can enable communities to become more inclusive. For instance, more numerous and safer road crossings can remove barriers that deter some older or mobility impaired residents from accessing community facilities due to the severance caused by an unsafe road.
Background Papers	
3.6	None