

REPORT TITLE: Highways Safety Update

Meeting:	E & CC Scrutiny
Date:	29 January 2025
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Munir Ahmed / Cllr Moses Crook
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	No No – Information report
Purpose of Report – To update Scrutiny on the continuing work in Kirklees Highways Safety team and approach to West Yorkshire’s Vision Zero ambition	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the contents of this report and accompanying presentation be noted. Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny requests an annual update on the work being done by Kirklees Highways Safety, a position statement on Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI’s) collisions across our District, and progress towards reducing both those collisions and the resulting casualties. 	
Resource Implications: There is no resource implication attached to the content of this report over and above that currently allocated across the Council and its Partners	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance? Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Service Director Katherine Armitage – Date 20/01/2025 Executive Director David Sheperd – 21/01/2025 NA NA

Electoral wards affected: All
Ward councillors consulted: None
Public or private: Public
Has GDPR been considered? NA

1. Executive Summary

Scrutiny is to be briefed on:

- West Yorkshire Vision Zero Strategy, launched August 2024
- Kirklees Vision Zero approach
- West Yorkshire and Kirklees collision data 2023
- Provisional Kirklees collision data 2024
- Kirklees Highways Safety deliverables
- Kirklees Highways Safety Strategy

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 West Yorkshire Combined Authority launched its Vision Zero Strategy 2024 – 2027, at a Vision Zero event, hosted in Bradford, on 13 Aug 2024, at which all 5 Districts were present, to show case the work undertaken at a District level, to promote safer roads.
- 2.2 In line with the national and international ambition for Vision Zero, our West Yorkshire Strategy aims to reduce to zero the number of people killed and seriously injured on our highway network, by 2040
- 2.3 To achieve those ambitious targets requires a collaborative approach and recognition that road safety is the responsibility of every road user.
- 2.4 Vision Zero works on a safe systems approach, with 5 key themes:
 - Safe Roads
 - Safe Behaviours
 - Safe Speeds
 - Safe Vehicles
 - Post Collision response

And as such responsibility for achieving this ambition is shared across those who design, build, manage and use roads, those involved in education and wellbeing as well and those who provide post-crash care.

- 2.5 Kirklees Council is preparing to launch its Kirklees Strategic Vision Zero Group, comprising of both internal teams and local representatives of external partners.
- 2.6 This group will provide strategic direction, leadership and governance to those within Kirklees who can influence and / or impact road collision prevention in our District.
- 2.7 KSI data for 2023 recorded 1450 collision across West Yorkshire and of those 229 were in Kirklees. The straight-line trajectory for achieving Vision Zero by 2040 required the number of collisions for Kirklees to be 220.
- 2.8 By investing in focused and data led engineering and educational schemes and other related initiatives, the provisional data for Kirklees shows that number of collisions has reduced from 229 in 2023, to 184 in 2024. The Vision Zero target trajectory is 204 – suggesting our approach is successfully bring collisions down – we now need to build on and maintain that downward trend.
- 2.9 The Highways Safety Strategy builds on the best practise the team have adopted and sets out the direction of travel, for Kirklees Highways Safety, on its contribution to the Kirklees Vision Zero journey.
- 2.10 It is important to recognise that an unsafe, or perceived unsafe road system is a barrier to active travel. So, supporting our journey towards, and ultimately achieving, Vision Zero, and improving road safety, will encourage active travel. This in turn, will assist the council in improving public health, by increased physical activity and creating a cleaner air environment.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 **Council Plan** – The context and content of the Highways Safety Strategy and the Vision Zero ambition for Kirklees acknowledges and aligns with the Council plan and its Shared Outcomes

3.2 Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications to the Council, than those within current Council agreed budgets.

There may be opportunities to secure external funding for future workstreams and initiatives, which will all be considered within the Councils future budgets, and in line with relevant Financial Procedure Rules.

3.3 Legal Implications

N/A

3.8 Other (eg Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

There will be a need for identified teams across the Council, to provide a representative to be part of Kirklees Strategic Vision Zero Group. Attendance at the Group meetings should sit comfortably with each representative's service ambitions, which are either directly, or indirectly link with road safety.

4. Consultation

NA

5. Engagement

NA

6. Options

NA

6.1 Options considered

NA

6.2 Reasons for recommended option

NA

7. Next steps and timelines

Presentation to Scrutiny Panel 29th January 2025

8. Contact officer

Liz Cusick, Operational Manager, Highways Service
Phillip Waddington, Group Engineer, Highways Safety

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

NA

10. Appendices

NA

11. Service Director responsible

Katherine Armitage