

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Presented by: - Richard Pryce Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Background:

Key Issues Highlighted: -

1. Policing Road Target

- Achieve improved road user behaviour.
- Reduce the numbers of Injuries/ deaths on the roads.
- For the public to use roads free from damage or fear.

2. Government Road Safety Review

Highlighted a 17% drop in the number of people killed/ seriously injured and a 33% reduction in the No of children killed / seriously injured. However there was a rise in the number of motorcyclist casualties and Drink/ drugs driving.

3. Road Policing Manifesto (Produced Association of Chief Police Officers ACPO)

Highlighted the need for the police:

- To concentrate on core functions e.g. road safety incidence etc and to shed auxiliary and inappropriate tasks. For example the police have withdrawn from routine escort of abnormal loads. Possibility of these auxiliary tasks can be carried out by Civilian transport Officers.
- The Highways Agency are employing civilian enforcement traffic officers who will patrol the motorways but will NOT have enforcement powers.
- Greater use of technology E.G CCTV cameras etc

4. Road Deaths

Road death investigation is often a lengthy process which can cause great disruption to the road network for long periods of time, heavily impacting the Business Community

Recommendations for the Next DLTP (2006-2011)

1. Vulnerable Groups

Vital vulnerable groups/ offenders receive education through training and effective communication strategies.

2. Engineering Support

Engineering Solution (supported by target enforcement) –is required to improve road safety critical in addressing strategic casualty reduction initiative. Greater consultation in this area is encouraged.

3. Network Management

Further examination of role-played by Highway Authority in terms of network management functions

4. Civil Enforcement

Devon County Council should investigate further decriminalising parking enforcement (Includes bus lane enforcement). Police resources are limited in this area - future strategy of civil enforcement is encouraged.

5. CCTV

There is great potential in the use of CCTV cameras. It is strongly recommended that police are included in any further consultation / future plans in expanding this area.

6. Speeding

- The enforcement of excessive speed is essential for achieving greater safety on Devons Roads. The Safety Camera Partnership is fundamental to this enforcement therefore continued support of Devon County Council is essential.
- Crucial that consultation takes place when the Council is setting speed limits.

7. Casualty Reduction Partnerships

There is a need to focus upon Local Casualty reduction Partnership Initiatives. As part of the LTP Devon County Council is encouraged to consider establishing a Local Casualty

DEVON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – 2006-2011

Reduction Partnership. Further to this a member from this Partnership should sit on the Standing Committee on Traffic & Safety (SCOTS) as it moves into a more strategic level.

8. Road Deaths

- The constabulary will continue to work with Devon to identify ways of mitigating the impact of road closures.
- The constabulary further recommends that Devon within the LTP keeps under review its diversion Routes. This requiring greater liaison and increased communication between DCC, emergency services and neighbouring highway authorities.

Handouts

The following paper were circulated by Richard Pryce:

Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 Panel Hearing

Panel Discussion

- Parking on Pavements- the police endeavour to restrict this as far a possible, and deal with this issue on a priority basis. Decriminalising this area would contribute to preventing illegal parking.
- The police are required to prioritise and allocate resources accordingly. Their highest priority is reducing the number of accidents on the roads. Congestion is not such a high priority and thus there are fewer resources available for this area for enforcement – decriminalising parking enforcement would improve this area.
- The Council would be held responsible for parking if it were decriminalised (risk involved). In Plymouth decriminalising parking was a success.
- When a road is closed due to an accident and a further accident occurs elsewhere Police policy is permit emergency vehicles through if no alternative route can be found.
- In the next DLTP -One of the main priorities from the police point of view is detailed early consultation.