

Birmingham City Council

Council

3 December 2024



Title:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY – ROAD SAFETY
Lead Member:	Councillor David Barker, Chair of Inquiry and Deputy Chair, Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Not Applicable
Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair?	Not Applicable
Report Author:	Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager Council Management - Legal and Governance amelia.murray@birmingham.gov.uk
Authorised by:	Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services Council Management - Legal and Governance
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not Applicable
Is this a Late Report?	No
Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	Not Applicable
Is this decision eligible for ‘call in?’	No
If ‘call-in’ has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised:	Not Applicable
Wards:	Not Applicable

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the key findings and recommendations from the Scrutiny Inquiry – Road Safety. The Inquiry considered the following question: How can the Council deliver better road safety outcomes while also meeting its budget challenges and moving towards financial recovery?
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Inquiry identified five themes from the evidence set out in Appendix A: Scale and Nature; Strategy and Policy; Physical Infrastructure; Parking; Other enforcement activity (Council and Police). Based on this evidence, the inquiry group has proposed 16 recommendations.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners have no observations on this report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council:

- 3.1 Approve recommendations R01 to R16, set out in Appendix A, and request that the Executive pursue their implementation.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 Making our city's roads safer has been and always will be a priority for communities across the city. The impact of fatalities and serious injuries for survivors and their families cannot be easily described. Committee members felt that the level of public concern demonstrated when meeting or speaking with constituents or expressed in local media articles meant that this was a vital issue for the committee to explore, and hence, they agreed to undertake this Inquiry. In the months before this Inquiry commenced, there had been several tragic incidents on our city's streets where pedestrians, cyclists as well as drivers, had been killed or seriously injured. More have taken place since.
- 4.2 This Scrutiny Inquiry was established in February 2024 by the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Evidence gathering took place between April and August 2024. In total, the inquiry considered evidence from 13 separate organisations using a combination of face to face sessions (including at committee meetings as well as informally), written submissions and a survey. It is important to note that some of the evidence considered had previously been shared for the Active Travel Inquiry, which was agreed by Council in July 2024. The report attached as Appendix A provides a summary of the evidence considered.
- 4.3 The Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will track the implementation of these recommendations and their impact through reports to the Committee.

5 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ward Councillor(s)

5.1 Not Applicable.

Overview and Scrutiny

5.2 Not Applicable.

Other

5.3 Not Applicable.

6 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

6.1 The Inquiry is very aware of the current financial position of the Council, and this was a key consideration when it determined its proposed recommendations, as set out in Appendix A. In line with the guidance for Overview and Scrutiny Inquiries in the Council, the proposed recommendations arising from this Inquiry do not have direct financial implications. Any future actions which might require additional resources or funding will be subject to the Council's financial approval framework as set out in the constitution

6.2 Consultation with the Executive in advance of finalising these recommendations also took place to assist with this. The view from the Inquiry is that these recommendations can be implemented within existing resources and so, are affordable as well as necessary (in light of their review of the evidence provided to them). If implemented, the Inquiry's recommendations will contribute towards, and drive improvements in, services, delivering both on efficiency and effectiveness and will demonstrate value for money.

6.3 The Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to consider financial and best value implications as part of its monitoring of the progress of these recommendations.

Legal

6.4 The proposed recommendations arising from this Inquiry, as set out in Appendix A, will contribute towards the Council's discharging the following legal duties as set out in Appendix B. Specifically, this relates to:

6.4.1 Section 39, Road Traffic Act 1988

6.4.2 Road Traffic Act 1991

6.4.3 Traffic Management Act 2004

6.4.4 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

6.4.5 Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Approved Devices, Charging Guidelines and General Provisions) (England) Regulations 2022; Civil Enforcement Officers (Wearing of Uniforms) (England) Regulations 2007 and Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (Representations and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2022

6.4.6 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

6.5 The Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to consider legal implications as part of its monitoring of the progress of these recommendations.

Equalities

6.6 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.7 There are no equalities implications directly arising from the recommendations, as set out in Appendix A. However, the Inquiry anticipates equality impact assessments are undertaken in relation to specific recommendations as they are progressed, and as appropriate. The Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to consider equalities implications as part of its monitoring of this progress.

Procurement

6.8 There are no procurement implications directly arising from the recommendations in this report.

People Services

6.9 There are no staffing related implications directly arising from the recommendations in this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

6.10 There are no anticipated Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero implications directly arising from the recommendations, as set out in Appendix A. However, the Inquiry anticipates that the combined impact of these proposed recommendations may contribute towards improvement in air quality (increases in active travel mobility significantly lower carbon footprints)

6.11 The Inquiry anticipates Environmental Sustainability Assessments (ESAs) are undertaken in relation to specific recommendations as they are progressed, and as appropriate. The Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny

Committee will continue to consider equalities implications as part of its monitoring of this progress.

Corporate Parenting

- 6.12 There are no corporate parenting implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Other

- 6.13 There are no other implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix A – Scrutiny Inquiry - Road Safety, 3 December 2024
7.2 Appendix B – Executive Commentary

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Birmingham Transport Plan
8.2 Local Transport Plan
8.3 Regional Road Safety Strategy 2023-2030
8.4 Regional Road Safety Strategy action plan
8.5 Road Harm Reduction Strategy Consultation
8.6 Scrutiny Inquiry - Active Travel, July 2024
8.7 West Midlands Police and Crime Plan 2021- 2025
8.8 Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme 2023-2024