

Agenda Item No. 4(e)

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE**

17 May 2018

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**CONSULTATION: DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT - REPORTING ROAD
ACCIDENTS TO THE POLICE**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To agree the County Council's formal response to the Department for Transport's (DfT) public consultation on Reporting Road Accidents to the Police, the closing date for which was 24 April 2018.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The 1988 Road Traffic Act currently legislates how and under what circumstances drivers involved in road traffic accidents must report details of the accident to the Police. The Police then record statistical and evidential information on the accident and investigate where appropriate.

The statistical data, known as Stats 19, is used by all highway authorities as the key data on all road safety matters; it directly influences major spending and infrastructure decisions across the country.

The law currently requires drivers to report accidents to a Police Officer or to a Police station in person as soon as possible, and in any case within 24 hours of the accident. The DfT's view is that this is an onerous burden on the public, businesses and the Police and does not cater for advances in communication technology, such as the internet.

The consultation therefore seeks to gauge the response to possible changes in the law and allow other means to report accidents, although the DfT is not seeking to mandate alternatives, only to allow Police forces to offer the facility dependent on local needs.

The intention to make reporting an accident more convenient has many benefits including:

1. Ease and convenience helping the public.
2. Reducing the current under-reporting of slight injury accidents.

3. Better recording of non-injury accidents which would be available to highway authorities.

There are some concerns in the suggested approach:

1. Different approaches taken by Police forces leading to inconsistent and inaccurate data.
2. Potential malicious use by people with criminal intent or personal agendas.

In order to meet the consultation deadline, informal Member and technical comments were submitted, subject to being agreed at this meeting.

(3) **Financial Considerations** There are no financial considerations associated with this report.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The consultation response is made in the context of the County Council's statutory duty under the Road Traffic Act 1988 to address road safety matters on the roads and as the Highway Authority for Derbyshire.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environment, health, property, social value and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Matt Pickard, extension 38657.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member delegates authority to officers to send a formal response to the Department for Transport consultation on Reporting Road Accidents to the Police in line with the issues and comments in this report.

Mike Ashworth
Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment