

REPORT: Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 14 November 2006
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Environment & Development
SUBJECT: Annual Road Traffic Casualty Analysis Report
WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To report on road traffic collision and casualty numbers within Halton for 2005 to enable members to review the effectiveness of the Council's casualty reduction strategy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the:

- (a) Work undertaken on casualty reduction continues to be supported; and**
- (b) Progress towards the achievement of the national casualty reduction targets be noted and welcomed;**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The report attached as Appendix "A" sets out a full analysis of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties for the year 2005 comparing performance with previous years. The report also gives details of progress towards various national and local targets for casualty reductions.
- 3.2 In summary during 2005:
- There were 394 road crashes involving personal injury in Halton, producing 590 casualties;
 - 73 of the casualties were serious, and there were 4 deaths;
 - The figures show a slight increase in serious injuries over 2004 but a decrease in the total numbers of crashes, slight injuries and children killed or seriously injured;
 - There was a significant increase in the numbers of motorcyclists killed or seriously injured, although the number of incidents involving motorcycles actually decreased.
 - Casualty numbers in the three key nationally-set target areas are on course to meet the 2010 national targets.
- 3.3 For the past few years Halton Borough Council has engaged in a number of successful large-scale accident reduction schemes at sites with acute accident records. However, the vast majority of such sites have now been treated, leaving, in general, sites with less severe casualty histories. The need for a

new approach to casualty reduction was recognised in the development of our Safer Roads Strategy, which was included in the new Local Transport Plan, covering the period 2006/7 – 2010/11. The new strategy focuses addressing a larger number of smaller scale problems and the enhancement of our road safety, education, training and publicity programme.

- 3.4 Our work on casualty reduction has been enhanced by the continuing success of the Cheshire Safety Camera Partnership in improving road safety. During the first three years of the scheme there has been, throughout Cheshire, an average speed reduction of 3.9mph at camera sites. There has also been a 36% reduction in collisions at these sites as well as 58% fewer people killed or seriously injured. These casualty and accident reductions have been achieved at no cost to the partners or council tax payers.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

5.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 5.1 Failure to implement an annual programme of road traffic accident prevention measures on the highway will lead to an escalation of accident and casualty numbers.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None identified.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Information held in the Traffic Section, Environmental Services, Grosvenor House, Halton Lea, Runcorn. Contact S.Johnson, ext. 3010.