

**Report to:** Environment Panel

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009

**Subject:** Seatbelt and Mobile phone misuse Driving Campaign

**Report of:** Executive Director – Environmental Services

**Contact officer:** Mark Tilley 01942 404341

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**Purpose / summary:** To inform Panel Members of the outcomes of a road safety enforcement exercise which was undertaken in partnership with the Council's Road Safety officers, Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** The alternative option was not to inform Panel Members, but this was discounted because we want to provide feedback.

**Recommendation / decision:** That Environment Panel Members:

- (1) Note the contents of this report
- (2) Endorse the partnership approach to enforcement and education in making the roads of Wigan safer for all.

**Key Decision:** This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed.

**Risks / Implications:**

Financial:	None
Staffing:	None
Policy:	Road Safety Strategy and Road Safety Best Value Improvement Plan.
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	Not Applicable
Wards affected:	All

**Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?**

No

**If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?**

**Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

**Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes / No \***

Has the Executive Director Business Support Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes / No \***

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **Yes / No \***

\* delete which applicable

**For Cabinet reports only :**

Categorisation of the report:	<b>x</b>		
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	<b>x</b>

**Tracking/Process:**

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
25 <sup>th</sup> March 09			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber

Date 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009

## **1. Background:**

- 1.1 Members will recall that the outcomes of the last campaigns carried out on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and four other previous campaigns since September 2006 have all been presented as information items.
- 1.2 Seat belt legislation is covered by the Road Traffic Act 1988, sections 14 and 15. The law states that if a seat belt is available, it must be worn. It's the driver's responsibility to ensure anyone in the car under 14 years of age wears their belt or child restraint. There is a fine of up to £500 for non-compliance.
- 1.3 Since 2003, it has been an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988, sections 2 and 3, Regulation 104, to use a hand held telephone when driving. The fine for this offence as from 27 February 2007 has been increased from £30 fixed penalty to £60 plus 3 penalty points or up to £1,000 on conviction in court, or £2,500 for drivers of buses or goods vehicles.

## **2. Road Safety Campaign**

- 2.1 This campaign is the first of four that will be undertaken during 2009. As in previous campaigns council Road Safety officers will continue to work in partnership with Greater Manchester Police and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2.2 On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. the Police set up 'spotters' who directed offending motorists into Wigan Fire Station. Motorists who had committed mobile phone offences or other driving related offences were given a fixed penalty ticket by the Police and provided with advice and information packs by the Council's Road Safety officers.
- 2.3 The Police also gave motorists advice on appropriate use of seatbelts and provided them with the option to pay a £30 fine or undertake a 20 minute education presentation on seatbelt use by the Fire and Rescue Service. Road Safety officers provided information and advice to parents on child restraint legislation and provided car seat checks, as required.

## **3. Conclusions: Campaign outcomes**

- 3.1 Over a 6 hour period in excess of 207 motorists were stopped and 11 presentations were given. The breakdown is as follows:
  - 140 non-compliant motorists/ passengers elected the presentation.
  - 8 people also attended who were present in the vehicle at the time of the offence but were compliant.
  - 31 people refused and were given a £30 fixed penalty ticket for no seat belt.
  - 18 people were given endorsable £60 fixed penalty for using a mobile phone.
  - 2 vehicles were seized and taken off the road for no insurance and
  - 8 further minor traffic offences.
- 3.2 As part of this campaign and those planned in the future, a snap shot survey was undertaken to establish age and gender profiles of those who attended the presentations. 47% of those opting for the presentation were within the 20 – 40 male

profile, which mirrors the national evidence on non seatbelt offenders and more locally the boroughs casualty data.

3.3 To date, our combined totals for the 6 campaigns (September 2006 to January 2009) yielded:

- 1020 offenders opting for the educational presentation
- 235 opted for the fine for seat belt offences
- 81 mobile phone offences
- 63 motorists stopped for various offences, of which;
- 4 motorists arrested, 3 for a drink drive offences, 2 for giving false details and 3 for driving whilst disqualified, careless driving and failing to stop for the Police.

3.4 All agencies confirmed that the campaign had again been a success and a good example of positive partnership working.

4. **Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:**  
Not applicable to this report

5. **Proposals:**

That Environment Panel Members:

- (1) Note the contents of this report
- (2) Endorse the partnership approach to enforcement and education in making the roads of Wigan safer for all.

## Diversity Impact Assessment form

Section: Highway Services

Policy/Service Area: Road Safety

Person Completing Form:  
Julie Dagnall

Date: 2 February  
2009

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race		x	Disability		x
Ethnicity		x	Gender		x
Age		x	Religion		x
Class		x	Sexual Orientation		x

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

No

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

Information was provided by Greater Manchester Police, through the data collated during the operation.

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

NA

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

Item only for information purposes, the work undertaken by the Road Safety Group within this initiative complied with the Road Safety Policy for Education, Training and Publicity.

Timescale	NA
Responsibility	NA
Comments	X

**Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?**

Departmental Service Plan	
Section/Team Plan	
Other (Specify)	Road Safety Strategy 2006 -10

Date for further review: