

GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE FIRE AND CRIME PANEL

Date: 16th November 2020

Subject: Oldham Council Motion - Roads Policing Not Optional

Report of: Jeanette Staley, Head of Community Safety, Salford City Council, and GM Policy and Strategy Support Officer.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to outline a motion raised at the Full Council meeting in Oldham on 9th September regarding a report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on Roads Policing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Panel is requested to note the motion and discuss whether to revisit the local policing plan to ensure that roads policing is sufficiently prioritised.

CONTACT OFFICER:

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In July 2020 HMICFRS published its report on '*Roads Policing: Not optional - An inspection of roads policing in England and Wales*'. The report looked at roads policing nationally, and made a series of recommendations.
- 1.2 At the full Council meeting in Oldham on 9th September 2020 the following motion was debated:
- 1.3 "Council notes that:
 - In the last ten years, there has been no significant decline in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads, after decades of reducing casualties.

- According to Department of Transport figures, there are still on average 5 fatalities and 68 serious injuries in England and Wales every day.
- In early July, the Department of Transport published a public consultation document supporting a Roads Policing Review. The closing date for submissions is October 5th.
- In the preamble to that document, the Under Secretary of State for Transport said the review sought to 'build the fairest and most operationally effective enforcement capability in police and other agencies to deliver the best outcome for the safety of all road users'.
- In the same month, the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary published a damning report which predicted an increase in road deaths because:
 - According to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, there has been a 34% cut in funding in real terms for road policing between 2012/3 and 2019/20 leading to a reduction of police officers available for these duties.
 - These officers receive insufficient training and operational support.
 - Road policing is 'seen as less of a priority than it should be' in most local plans and there is an 'unclear national strategy'.
 - The HM Inspectorate called for urgent action as 'roads policing is not optional'."

1.4 Full Council resolved to:

- Ask that the Chief Executive write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Transport, making clear this Council's position that funding in real terms for road policing should be restored; that the HM Inspectorate's recommendation be implemented in full as a priority; and that a new national strategy for road policing and safety should be developed. The Chief Executive is asked to send copies of this letter to the Police and Crime Panel, Oldham's three local Members of Parliament and the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and to seek support for the Council's position.
- Ask the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel to request the Panel revisit the local policing plan to ensure that roads policing is sufficiently prioritised; and
- Ask that the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the appropriate Council officers and the relevant Cabinet Member, make a submission to the Roads Policing Review consultation on behalf of the Council taking this resolution in to account.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS.

2.1 Appear at the front of the report