

Dear all,

RE: Road safety & speed enforcement in Staffordshire

Following recent accusations about road safety and the role of the County Council, I wanted to provide clarity and further information which you may find useful when dealing with constituent enquiries.

Staffordshire County Council takes road safety extremely seriously. We would never ignore or dismiss concerns raised by residents, communities or their elected representatives.

I have been extremely concerned to see the recent statements made in Parliament and shared on social media. These statements are misleading and misrepresent how road safety decisions are made locally. Given the importance of this issue to our residents and communities, it is essential that there is a clear and shared understanding of responsibilities and processes.

As a council, we take a considered, evidence-led approach to ensure that limited resources are put where they will have the greatest impact on reducing road collisions and improving safety.

The Council is a member of the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP), and we work closely with all partners including the Police, National Highways and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service to make our roads safer. The SSRP has governance measures in place to ensure any activity is appropriate and delivered in line with the aims of the partnership.

Since the Partnership was established in 2001, the number of injury-related collisions across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has fallen significantly. This is due to the combined impact of a range of factors, including work delivered through the Partnership.

Speed cameras & speed enforcement

It is important to be clear about where responsibility sits in relation to speed cameras and enforcement.

Speed cameras are managed through the SSRP, and enforcement activity is carried out by Staffordshire Police, not the County Council. Decisions on camera location and enforcement priorities are reviewed and agreed through the SSRP, not by the Council or Police alone.

The criteria used to determine this activity has been in place for many years and is aligned closely to the Department for Transport guidance.

Handling concerns & working with communities

On behalf of the SSRP, the Council focuses mainly on speeding concerns and the consideration of enforcement. This includes promoting community initiatives such as Community Speed Watch and reporting issues to the relevant authority. Wider road safety matters, such as traffic calming and highway improvements, are addressed through the Council's Community Highway teams.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we receive a high volume of requests from communities, and we use clear and consistent criteria to make sure resources are targeted at locations where intervention will have the greatest benefit.

Looking ahead, we welcome the ambition of the government's new Road Safety Strategy, and we are keenly awaiting the revised "Setting Local Speed Limits" guidance which will provide further clarity for us and our partners.

As Cabinet Member for Strategic Highways, I believe in the importance of engagement, and I am available to answer questions and brief you on specific locations or on the operation of the SSRP if that would be helpful.

I hope this letter provides the clarity needed and helps to dispel some of the misunderstandings that have recently emerged. The Council remains firmly committed to improving road safety and working collaboratively with our partners, communities and elected representatives to achieve that aim.

If residents have a concern, they can report speeding and other highway concerns through our online reporting system:

<https://formshighways.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit>

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Peter Mason