

CUMBRIA SAFETY CAMERA PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Cumbria Safety Camera Partnership Steering Group held on Monday 11 September 2006 in The Cumbria Area Director's Office, Her Majesty's Courts Service, 24-26 Portland Square, Carlisle, commencing at 2.00 pm.

PRESENT

Mr S Evans	- Her Majesty's Courts Service (Chair)
Mr S Brain	- Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service
Mr S Callaghan	- Cumbria Safety Cameras
Mr J McKeown	- Cumbria County Council
Ms H Shaw	- Her Majesty's Courts Service
Mr J Sjorup	- Cumbria Safety Cameras
Mr I Stewart	- Cabinet Member, Cumbria County Council
Mr J Storey	- Cumbria County Council
Mr R Terwey	- Cumbria County Council
Mr J Turner	- Amey Mouchel

ACTION

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Martyn Cox (Highways Agency), Bernard Dolan (Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service), Patrick Hall (Amey Mouchel), ACC Graham Sunderland (Cumbria Constabulary) and Kevin Tea (Cumbria Safety Cameras).

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Steering Group, held on 6 February 2006, were agreed as a correct record.

3. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Rob Terwey confirmed that he had provided information on Local Area Agreements for the DfT.

Steve Callaghan reported that he had placed an order for the signage for mobile camera sites that had previously been approved.

Steve Callaghan confirmed that the draft budget had been approved. He advised that the DfT was allowing in-year bids to be submitted.

4. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Jonathan McKeown presented the outturn statement for 2005/06. The outturn showed total expenditure of £1,355,312 with a surplus of £254,848. This continued the downward trend shown in previous years. It was noted that there had been an underspend on police costs caused by the effects of vacancies, a reduction in the costs of equipment maintenance and also a slight underspend in the Communications Budget. There had also been underspends on Magistrates costs due to vacancies in staffing, underspends within Cumbria County Council due to costs not being incurred on equipment maintenance and underspends from the Highways Agency due to lower than anticipated site installation costs and equipment maintenance costs. The figures had now been audited and signed off by the Audit Commission. Members of the Steering Group stressed the importance of ensuring that the Communications Budget was fully spent. The payment of Fixed Penalty Notices was also discussed and it was agreed that Jan Sjorup would produce a graph showing the trend with this.

Jan Sjorup

The Steering Group also received the budget monitoring statement to 31 August 2006. Jonathan McKeown reported that actual total expenditure to date was £297,522 and that the projected out turn of £2,337,328 was based on the original budget.

Rob Terwey advised that any issues concerning the payment of invoices could be raised with Capita through the Operational Steering Group and invited Steve Callaghan to notify him of any problems with this.

**Steve Callaghan
Rob Terwey**

The possibility of another underspend on maintenance was discussed and it was noted that one might be recorded in relation to the maintenance of Redspeed Cameras. It was agreed that alternative spending plans should be drawn up wherever possible to absorb any underspending.

Steve Callaghan

The Steering Group also discussed the purchase of four replacement vehicles, noting that they had been ordered for anticipated delivery in October and that arrangements were in hand for the sale of the vehicles that were being replaced.

5. OPERATIONAL AND STATISTICAL REPORT

Steve Callaghan reported that from April 2007, Safety Camera Partnership funding would be linked to the Local Transport Plan, with separate funding to be available through the Highways Agency for safety cameras at roadworks. To ensure continuity, a Service Level Agreement would be required to cover the period from April 2007 to April 2010. Rob Terwey advised that anything to be funded out of the Local Transport Plan should be included in a bid to be submitted during the next few weeks in order to meet the timetable for the County Council Budget process. It was agreed that Steve Callaghan could be provided with further information on the timescale for this, which was linked to the work programme for the County Council's Scrutiny Panel E.

John Storey
Steve Callaghan

The Steering Group also discussed the structures supporting the future operation of the Safety Camera Partnership and it was agreed that Steve Callaghan would report to the next meeting with a proposal covering the continuation of the work of the Steering Group, including the appropriate body to undertake this.

Steve Callaghan

In relation to fixed cameras, it was noted that all were installed, with the final commissioning to be completed on one camera.

In recent months, two fixed cameras had been attacked. The installation on the A591 at Ings had been attacked with spray grease on two occasions and the police had taken action to deter further attacks. On the A595 at Howgate the Eastbound camera had been subject to deliberate fire damage, requiring the replacement of the camera post, cabling and camera head at an estimated cost of £12,000 for repairs and modifications. New fixed cameras would be installed on the A69 at Low Row and the A65 at Kirkby Lonsdale. The site at Low Row had been substituted for one at Plumpton, which was now covered by a Route Action Plan. Initial surveys had been carried out and meetings conducted to expedite installation. Costs had also been obtained from the suppliers. Information on existing signage and proposed camera routes had been provided to the County Council to enable existing camera signs at core sites to be audited and a survey was currently underway. Any changes required to meet DfT requirements for fixed cameras to be in the same view as the speed limit, or to install high visibility reflectors would be implemented.

The upgrade to the VFPO System to allow it to automatically scan records was now complete and had been signed off.

Modification costs to accommodate the possible introduction of Speed Awareness courses were being sought from Northgate. The on-line viewing system was now operational.

Vehicle Activated Signs had been installed at the A590 Bouth Road Ends, the A595 Loop Road at Whitehaven, Scotland Road, Penrith and Priory Road, Ulverston. Installation was underway at the two remaining sites. The possibility of making speed identification devices available in every County Councillor's Division was discussed, but it was noted that Safety Camera Partnership rules would not allow the purchase of the equipment to meet such a target during the current year.

Steve Callaghan

The report also included an analysis of site statistics, with the totals being reported in relation to fixed and mobile camera proportions.

Figures were provided for the final number of collisions that had occurred on site since April 2006. On site analysis for 2005 showed that the safety cameras had maintained the reduction of casualties at core sites over the 2005 to 2006 operational year, with a sixty percent reduction in KSI collisions and sixty percent reduction in slight collisions when compared with 94-98 baseline figures. Information was also provided for the number of enforcement hours for both fixed and mobile sites in each District to date for 2006.

Fixed Penalty Notice statistics showed the number of accumulated tickets, cancelled and paid on a monthly basis during the current operational year. An analysis of the percentage of tickets paid to those issued showed that, after three months, an eighty percent recovery had been achieved in keeping with the operational case for 2006.

6. MARKETING AND PR REPORT

Steve Callaghan presented the report on recent marketing and PR activities. The report included updates on press releases, TV and radio broadcasts, radio and newspaper advertising and the website. Information was also provided on current leaflet and poster campaigns and events attended by the Cumbria Safety Camera representatives.

The Steering Group noted work undertaken to improve safety for motorcyclists, including the 'Ride Safe Back Safe' initiative which, together with the 'Strictly Come Speeding' campaign had demonstrated the success of regional working.

The report also covered market research surveys and the close working relationship with the local radio station, CFM, that Cumbria Safety Cameras continued to enjoy. Ian Stewart advised that BBC Radio Cumbria also wished to be more proactive in promoting road safety issues and hoped that full advantage could be taken of the opportunities there.

Kevin Tea

7. IN YEAR BID – Q1 2006

Steve Callaghan reported that the in year bid for Q1 2006 had been accepted by the DfT. The Steering Group received a copy of the approval letter from the DfT agreeing adjustments to expenditure due to enforcement strategy changes, back office upgrades and staffing. This involved a reduction in spend of £466,134.73 on the original operational case and Steve Callaghan explained that the majority of this reduction was through changes in the provision for the Cumberland Gap road works speed enforcement measures which now appeared not to be required until Summer 2007. Part of the reduction in spend was the result of an adjustment for some double accounting on anticipated signage.

It was agreed that Steve Callaghan should make any further in-year bids that might be required on the Steering Group's behalf, notifying members of this by email.

Steve Callaghan

8. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE STEERING GROUP

It was agreed that it would be appropriate for the Highways Agency representative to act as Vice-Chair of the Steering Group, subject to their agreement to this. John Storey would notify Martyn Cox accordingly.

John Storey

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm