

# THAMES VALLEY SAFER ROADS PARTNERSHIP (TVSRP)

2010 – 2011 FUNDING

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD

#### INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

The Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership (TVSRP) was established in the year 2000 to enable the netting-off<sup>1</sup> of fine revenue from safety camera enforcement. Between then and March 2007 it reported directly to the Department for Transport (DfT) and was able to reclaim costs relating to enforcement cameras. In April 2007 several significant changes happened. Firstly, fines from cameras were no longer automatically recycled back into the partnership; ending the netting-off arrangement. Instead a dedicated road safety grant fund of £440m was set up by the Government over a four year period with individual grants being awarded to highway authorities. Authorities have the flexibility over where to spend this funding although there was high expectation from DfT that it would supplement and innovate road safety activities. Alongside this arrangement, Partnerships were given the freedom to tackle any road safety issue they deemed important.

In Thames Valley, the nine highway authorities, Thames Valley Police, Her Majesty's Courts Services, the Highways Agency and more recently the three Fire and Rescue services agreed to form a progressive road safety partnership and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2007 to be effective for the duration of the new funding.

Under the terms of this MoU, each year the spending partners (those who carry out activities on behalf of the partnership) are required to set out a budget to show in detail where funding is required. These budgets are considered for approval by all partners each September.

#### PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Windsor and Maidenhead, along with the other eight highway authorities receives a payment from the DfT under the title 'Specific Road Safety Grant'. In 2010 – 11 this will be £282,248 (81.8% Revenue, 18.2% capital). Contributions to the Partnership are based on the value of each authority's grant with each local authority partner paying the same percentage. This model for partnership funding is set out in the MoU. In 2010 – 11 the percentage contribution required by the draft budget is 75% (£212,303.95).

Required contributions have generally decreased over the last three years due to efficiency savings made by the TVSRP plus an increase in income from Diversionary Education Courses (DEC). DECs are those operated by Thames Valley Police (TVP) as an alternative to points and a fine for an offence e.g. the Speed Awareness Scheme (SAS). TVP receive administration fees for each offence that results in a course being taken and this is returned to the Partnership. The total figure arising from this source is estimated to be £600,000 in 2010 – 11.

#### PARTNERSHIP OPERATIONS

#### SAFETY CAMERAS

Windsor and Maidenhead has a total of 36 enforcement locations, 25 of which are fixed speed cameras, 0 are Red-Light cameras and there are 11 places where mobile camera enforcement takes place. The majority of the fixed cameras have been in place for over 10 years and the casualty reduction record is impressive with a 44% drop in recorded injury collisions since the cameras were installed<sup>2</sup>. The camera housings are not live all of the time with only a small percentage loaded at any one time. Mobile

<sup>1</sup> Reclaiming of expenses relating to the use of enforcement cameras (speed & red-light).

<sup>2</sup> Based on the three years before the cameras were installed compared with the most recent three years (2006 – 2008)

camera sites are similarly only serviced occasionally with set hours of enforcement per month. All camera offences (155,521 in Thames Valley last year<sup>3</sup>) are processed by the Fixed Penalty Support Unit (FPSU) based in Banbury.

The FPSU sends Notices of Intended Prosecution (NIP) to the registered keepers of vehicles and carries out all of the required legal processes in order to dispose the alleged offence. The three methods of disposal are; attendance at a DEC (50,145 in the last year<sup>3</sup>); paid Conditional Offer of a Fixed Penalty Notice (COFPN) (48,399); or attendance at court (5,209). During the enquiries process that takes place to identify the driver at the time of the offence, many other offences are detected. The team receive approximately 100 false nominations per month and since the beginning of 2008 there have been 40 perjury cases, 8 of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, 179 of permitting no insurance, 4 arrests for driving while disqualified and 12 arrests for burglary. Should any of our partners wish to know more about the work of the FPSU can contact the partnership team who will be able to help.

Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) are responsible for processing all fine payments and work closely with the FPSU. They also provide support with the administration of court sessions and ensure all fines are paid.

### ROAD SAFETY CONSTABLES

TVSRP fund a dedicated team of TVP officers who work with the local authorities on pertinent local road safety issues identified by Road Safety Officers, often tackling behaviours that can't be managed through automated enforcement mechanisms. The best example of the partnership work carried out is the undertaking of regular roadside checks involving the Road Safety Constables (RSC's), local authority road safety officers, other TVP officers and other agencies including VOSA<sup>4</sup>. Checks over the last year<sup>5</sup> in Windsor and Maidenhead have yielded the following:

Seatbelt offences	229
Vehicle Defects	13
Mobile Phone Offences	20
Driving Licence Offences	4
Insurance Offences	5
Drink Drive Offences	2

The RSCs also work with local authorities on road safety events and assess potential new speed enforcement locations.

### OTHER PARTNERSHIP ROAD SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Under the TVSRP banner many other road safety campaigns and events are carried out. These include the very successful [Safe Drive Stay Alive](#) (SDSA) campaign, now in its fourth year, which is now attended by well over 10,000 young people each year. Other coordinated campaigns include [SaferRider](#) which aims to educate motorcyclists, plus other themed road safety weeks based around a central campaigns calendar which covers issues such as seatbelts, mobile phones, alcohol, driving for work and seasonal problems.

All partnership campaigns are supported and coordinated by the partners and led by the partnership communications manager. Appropriate advertising media are selected to support each campaign and publicity and press liaison is managed by the partnership team.

### PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

As well as co-ordinating campaigns, the partnership team based near Banbury, assist the partners in many areas of operations. The team provide administrative support to all partnership meetings, manage internal communications, coordinate responses to consultation documents, process media enquiries, handle correspondence from members of the public including FOI requests and manage all of the partnership websites. The partnership team monitor all partnership activities and expenditure with reports provided on a quarterly basis. They also produce an annual report and assist the annual budget setting process. All camera maintenance issues are handled centrally with repairs to equipment paid for through the partnership and annual traffic surveys are conducted throughout the area. Advice is also offered to partners regarding legal issues including signing inconsistencies for example. Through their links with other partnerships regionally and nationally, the partnership team are able

<sup>3</sup> 2008 – 2009 financial year.

<sup>4</sup> The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

<sup>5</sup> July 2008 – June 2009

to monitor emerging trends in road safety including new enforcement technologies. All requests for new enforcement locations are managed through the partnership website giving partners the opportunity to discuss the merits of new sites. This process is used to manage 'Community Concern' sites that originate from local residents who are worried about speeding traffic in their areas. Any site of this nature will be fully assessed based on the level of risk to road users before a decision is made.

One key area where the partnership team had led nationally is on the provision of pioneering collision analysis tools and methods. TVSRP produced the 'Headline Data' tool combining all of Thames Valley's collision records for the last 9 years together with information about social backgrounds. This has been made available to all partners and won a Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2008. This methodology is now being scaled up to a national level through the awarding of a £155,000 DfT Partnership Grant which will be launched in Autumn 2009. All regional campaigns are now designed using the available information which allows all road safety professionals to analyse complex casualty trends in minutes.

## PARTNERSHIP EXPENDITURE

The following table shows the costs associated with each area of partnership operations planned for 2010 – 11. It also indicates where Windsor and Maidenheads's contributions are spent. Full budgets are submitted to the TVSRP Strategy Committee for approval and show more detail.

Spending Area	Budget Heading	Windsor and Maidenhead
Enforcement Team	Capital Items	£ 2,035
Enforcement Team	Permanent Staff - Camera Operators	£ 21,001
Enforcement Team	Permanent Staff - Road Safety Constable	£ 12,993
Enforcement Team	Other Staff Costs	£ 708
Enforcement Team	Equipment & system maintenance	£ 3,135
Enforcement Team	Vehicle maintenance, servicing and running costs	£ 5,523
Enforcement Team	Other Costs	£ 338
FPSU	Accommodation	£ 6,510
FPSU	Equipment & system maintenance	£ 14,759
FPSU	Staff costs	£ 75,458
FPSU	Other revenue costs (including postage)	£ 12,974
HMCS	Staff Costs	£ 16,053
HMCS	All Other Costs (including postage and bank charges)	£ 3,902
Partnership Team	Staff Costs	£ 12,565
Partnership Team	Accommodation	£ 1,563
Partnership Team	Camera Maintenance	£ 7,958
Partnership Team	Traffic Surveys	£ 2,942
Partnership Team	Communications & Publicity	£ 6,318
Partnership Team	Other costs (including Road Safety Support membership fee)	£ 3,162

This information is shown graphically on the next page in the form of a pie chart.

## SUMMARY

TVSRP offers its partners a wide range of services, beyond the basic enforcement of safety cameras. The partnership has been recognised nationally as leading in a number of areas including data provision, the creation of the Road Safety Constable approach, the implementation of new education courses for drivers including mobile phone and seatbelts, and the largest capacity young drivers education event in the country. All of this has been achieved through a multi-agency approach with a shared vision of securing a safer environment on the roads in Thames Valley by promoting safe driving and riding, reducing collisions and improving safety to protect the health and wellbeing of all road users, residents and visitors in the area.

