

November 2015

Dear

The Treasury will publish the Comprehensive Spending Review on 25th November, which is likely to include further substantial cuts to local authority funding. You will already, no doubt, be struggling with the very real challenges of assessing the most effective way to allocate smaller budgets across the full range of Local Government activity, while seeking to ensure that these spending decisions do not affect the wellbeing of the people you represent.

One of the greatest threats the people in your community face is the risk of being killed or injured on the roads. The number of people killed and injured in reported road crashes increased in 2014, and may continue to rise as the economy improves and traffic levels rise.

As you will know, local authorities have various statutory duties (mainly under section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1988) to provide road safety, including taking steps to reduce and prevent accidents, promoting road safety, and securing the safe movement of traffic and pedestrians. Other local agencies, such as the Police, Fire and Rescue Services and Public Health, also have duties to deliver road safety related services.

Road crashes and casualties cause immeasurable loss and trauma, and impose a huge burden on our local services, causing a significant proportion of A&E attendances and hospital admissions, as well as massive costs on local authority, police and fire and rescue services.

This toll can be reduced by providing cost-effective road safety programmes that are:

- Informed by local data and evidence, and prioritise high risk groups and areas
- Based on a Safe System approach
- Planned and delivered in partnership with other agencies, and in consultation with local people
- Evaluated to assess effectiveness and identify improvements

Effective road safety saves lives and prevents (often life-changing) injuries, and enables people to live healthy and full lives. It reduces the burden on over-stretched public services, such as health and social care, helps to tackle health inequalities and supports other public

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policies, such as helping and encouraging people to walk and cycle in a safe and attractive environment. It saves an immense amount of public money.

Good road safety adopts the Safe System Approach, which recognises that people make mistakes, and so designs roads and vehicles to minimise the risk of this causing death or serious injury. It also needs continuing education and engagement with road users and expertise to deliver public engagement programmes.

We realise that at times like this, every public service will be calling for protection, and that long-term and sustainable interventions that make a difference need to be prioritised. "Making Road Safety Count" has been produced by a group of road safety and road user organisations to outline the role which you can play in protecting the quality of life which your residents experience.

We hope that you will find it helpful in light of the difficult decisions you are having to make.

Yours sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David G Davies', followed by a horizontal flourish.

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