

## **My proposals for a new Road Safety Fund**

I have been clear in my Police and Crime Plan, Everybody's Business (2015- 2020), that I want to find better and more innovative ways to respond to the public's concerns on anti-social road use across Hertfordshire. Every year people are killed or injured through vehicle collisions, many of which are preventable; often caused by excess speed, the influence of drugs or alcohol, or through distractions. People also drive without due care and attention, talking on mobile phones, and not wearing a seatbelt.

Data on road traffic collisions resulting in serious injury and deaths in Hertfordshire between January 2012 and September 2015 showed that 117 people died and 1,246 were seriously injured. Of those collisions, 62 serious injuries and eight fatalities were as a result of the impairment of the driver or rider by illegal drugs. These deaths and injuries have a huge emotional impact on society, both to the people involved, families and witnesses. There are also significant cost implications to the public purse, to emergency services, NHS and social services. The most recent data indicates that the average cost of dealing with a fatal collision is £1.9 million, and the average cost of dealing with a collision involving injury is £75,000.

### **Where will the funding come from?**

In my Police and Crime Plan I outlined my intention to ensure that those who are responsible for crime bear a greater proportion of the costs of dealing with crime and that the residents of Hertfordshire should have a say in how the money generated by offenders is used to support new initiatives.

Over the last two years the Cameras, Tickets and Collisions (CTC) Unit has generated a surplus from the fines and fees from those who have been caught speeding, attended a speed awareness course, or from court prosecutions and recoveries. For Hertfordshire, this surplus amounts to approximately £1.3 million for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. It is my intention to ring-fence this surplus, and in partnership with Hertfordshire's Strategic Road Safety Partnership, find the best solutions to a range of road safety measures where a local case is made.

I expect that the surplus generated will continue for at least three years, the amount of which will be announced to Hertfordshire residents on an annual basis, and may reduce slightly over the years as improvements to road safety and driver behaviour produce a lower surplus for the fund.

## **Working in partnership**

Across the county much partnership work exists, under Hertfordshire's Strategic Road Safety Partnership, to bring together the main organisations that have a key role in road safety, including the County Council, Fire and Rescue Service, Highways, Public Health, and Police. The current Road Safety Strategy includes a mix of education, engineering and enforcement programmes, including one of the most publicised campaigns, called Learn2Live, which aims to educate new and young drivers about the dangers of drinking and driving.

Next year the Strategic Road Safety Partnership will publicise a strategy setting out the strategic direction for a programme of targeted activity which will bring together a range of qualitative and quantitative data, measures and relevant information to support a holistic mix of education, engineering and enforcement activity, including average speed cameras, that focus on reducing road injuries and deaths, and improving road safety across the county.

It is proposed that the Road Safety Fund will give members of the public, local community groups and agencies the opportunity to highlight to authorities where improvements can be made, which could make a difference to their quality of life and prevent injuries and deaths. In doing so, the Road Safety Fund will seek to address persistent road safety concerns, and be responsive to new and emerging concerns where a local case is made.

## **Your views are important**

In summary, my proposal is to introduce a Road Safety Fund, using the surplus generated from offenders through speeding fines, courses and court fees, to support a range of educational, engineering and enforcement solutions to local road safety issues.

I will be inviting proposals and outline business cases from late January 2016, with the Strategic Road Safety Partnership seeking to award bids from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. Following the funding proposals being awarded, I will publicise those that have been successful on my website and in other media outlets so you are aware how the money generated by offenders is being spent to improve road safety in your county.

This is my proposal, but I want to hear from you. I need your views and comments to help determine whether setting up a new Road Safety Fund using money generated from offenders and working with partners to tackle road safety issues across the county is the right approach for Hertfordshire. This is your chance to have a say.

If you would like to give comments, please email them to [the.plan@Herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:the.plan@Herts.pnn.police.uk) or send by letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, 15 Vaughan Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 4GZ, by 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016.