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Appendix 5: Dorset Driver Awareness Scheme overview

DRIVER AWARENESS SCHEME

1. EXPENDITURE

- 1.1 The Driver Awareness Scheme (DAS) is a mechanism for disposing of a number of motoring offences with the objective of reducing poor driving behaviour, and subsequently the number of people killed or seriously injured on Dorset's road, through education.
- 1.2 Alongside DAS, Dorset Police also offers other training, including the National Driver Alertness Course and Bikesafe. The costs and income from these courses are minimal when compared with DAS, but are included within the income and expenditure figures of DAS as the direct costs of administering these courses are largely inseparable from the costs of DAS. To give an indication of scale, the total identifiable direct costs of these other courses is approximately £25,000 per annum.
- 1.3 The DAS scheme receives referrals from the Dorset Road Safe Partnership (DRSP), and from operational police officers primarily for speeding offences, but also for other offences such as use of mobile phones. From an operational viewpoint the activities of DAS cannot be considered in isolation. DAS is an element of the enforcement and education activities that take place within the Force, and with partners.
- 1.4 The full cost of DAS therefore includes the cost of DRSP. Dorset Police also funds a Road Safety enforcement and education activity, 'No Excuse', which works alongside the DRSP partnership activity. The aim of No Excuse is to raise awareness of motoring offences and, where offences are committed, to issue notices of intended prosecution, which may be disposed of either by fines or through a driver awareness course. The Force operates a Safer Schools and Community Team which further reinforces road safety, alongside other personal safety, drug and alcohol awareness and crime reduction advice.
- 1.5 The total costs of these activities in 2012/13 is shown below:

| | Grand Total £000's |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pay and Allowances | 1,398.7 |
| Office Equipment and Consumables | 171.0 |
| Premises and Accommodation | 231.7 |
| Computer Software | 147.5 |
| External Training | 75.2 |
| Equipment | 70.8 |
| Bank Charges | 37.0 |
| Travel and Transport | 11.3 |
| Interpreters Fees | 11.1 |
| Subsistence | 2.2 |
| Force Overheads * | 473.6 |
| Total Expenditure | 2,630.2 |

* In addition to the direct costs of provision shown above are the indirect costs associated with the function. This includes overheads such as support to DAS and DRSP within the Operational Support command, and also overheads such as the support received from central departments and Force Command.

2. INCOME

- 2.1 The income for the Driver Awareness Scheme is from the provision of courses, which are currently charged at £110 per course and this cost is reviewed annually. This

compares to the current fixed penalty cost of £60. However, the cost of fixed penalty tickets will soon increase to £100 nationally, and individuals who choose to contest a fixed penalty in Court could potentially pay up to £1,000 if their case is lost.

2.2 In effect an individual will, if they so choose, be paying an extra £10 for which they receive an accredited and beneficial course that will improve their safety when driving.

2.3 The total DAS income for 2012/13 is shown below:

| | Grand Total £000's |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Provision of Training | (2,440.4) |

2.4 As can be clearly seen, the cost of delivering the enforcement and education activities is greater than the income derived from such activities

2.5 The local authorities with responsibility for highways receive a Government grant for the purpose of reducing the number of people killed and seriously injured on Dorset's roads. This grant can be used for relevant purposes, including education, engineering and enforcement. Currently local authorities use a proportion of this grant to contribute to the costs of DRSP, although the future of this funding is not assured.

3. OTHER TRAFFIC POLICING

3.1 In addition to the education and enforcement activities carried out through DAS and DRSP, Dorset Police makes a significant investment in other areas of traffic policing. The total costs of other traffic policing in 2012/13 was £3,492.7, and a breakdown of this figure is shown below:

| | Grand Total £000's |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pay and Allowances | 2,833.4 |
| Equipment | 46.0 |
| Referral Fees | 43.0 |
| External Training | 41.6 |
| Travel and Transport | 7.0 |
| Office Equipment and Consumables | 2.1 |
| Prosecution Costs | 1.9 |
| Premises and Accommodation | 0.7 |
| Subsistence | 0.5 |
| Income | (137.0) |
| Force Overheads | 653.5 |
| Total Other Traffic Policing | 3,492.7 |

3.2 The Force has recently restructured its resources in this area, moving some traffic tasks into the wider area of Territorial Policing, including the provision of officers for traffic duties if resilience is required. The costs shown above are those that can be directly apportioned to traffic policing, but the additional costs within Territorial Policing are impractical to extract.