

**Bath and North East Somerset Council**  
**Full Council meeting 30 November 2023**

**Green Party Motion to Adopt a Vision Zero Approach to Eliminate Road Deaths in Bath and North East Somerset**

Proposed by Cllr Saskia Heijltjes

Seconded by Cllr Joanna Wright

**Council notes:**

1. Statistics from the Department for Transport state that between 2017 and 2021 – the last period with complete data, 15 people were killed and 133 seriously injured by vehicle collisions within Bath and North East Somerset. On average, 30 people were injured every year.

2. The Joint Local Transport Plan 4 mentions that all WECA authorities have adopted the Vision Zero target, which aspires to eliminate all Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) collisions on the network by 2036.

3. Vision Zero is a proven strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries while increasing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. Key principles include:

- Safe speeds - encouraging speeds appropriate to the street;
- Safe streets - designing an environment forgiving of mistakes;
- Safe vehicles - reducing risks posed by the most dangerous vehicles;
- Safe behaviours - improving the behaviours of people using our roads;
- Post-collision response - learning from collisions and improving justice and care for victims.

4. B&NES council has recently launched the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy<sup>1</sup> and Corporate Strategy<sup>2</sup> which set out priorities for healthy communities as well as safe neighbourhoods.

5. Councils and organisations that have adopted Vision Zero include: Bristol, Kent, Devon, Cornwall, Brighton and Hove, Blackpool, Leeds, Hackney, Transport for London, National Fire Chiefs Council, The AA, and RAC.

6. The Vision Zero approach is endorsed by international organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and is led by an ethical stance that it is not acceptable that people should be killed or seriously injured as a price for mobility. These are avoidable events – not accidents.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/corporate-strategy-2023-2027>

7. Actions that can be taken to achieve vision zero often include:

- Road Design, including separation of cycle users and pedestrians from vehicles;
- Enforcement of Speed Limits and the Highway Code;
- School Streets;
- Liveable (Low Traffic) Neighbourhoods;
- Education;
- A cohesive network of walking and cycling routes.

**Council believes that:**

1. The vast majority of road deaths are avoidable, and the only acceptable long-term casualty target for road deaths and serious injuries in Bath and North East Somerset is Zero.

2. It is vitally important to provide consistent, accessible active travel infrastructure for people to use across Bath and North East Somerset. Yet, fear of injury suppresses the demand for walking and cycling. This adversely affects children, older people and people with disabling conditions and prevents them from moving around our area.

3. All Unitary authorities in the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) have adopted the Vision Zero target, but B&NES council and its partners do not have a published plan to meet this target.

4. By separating people walking, cycling, and using vehicles, casualties will be reduced. Work is ongoing to create new routes such as Somer Valley Links, but currently, much of Bath and North East Somerset's active travel infrastructure is disconnected and does not meet the accessibility requirements of a modern diverse society in our region.

5. High-quality, consistent road design can reduce road deaths. Local Transport Note LTN 1/20<sup>3</sup>, Cycle infrastructure design, is the current best practice design guideline for all transport schemes and is endorsed by Active Travel England and has been put in place by the UK Government.

6. While there are a number of actions that will require joined-up work with partner organisations, there are some steps to reduce road casualties that B&NES Council could take or investigate now including:

- Speed Limiters in all council vehicles to act as pace vehicles for the whole city;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-120>

- Roll out of 'vision zero' training to all council employees who drive as part of their role;
- Investigate actions with partners, such as the Police, to enforce 20mph and safer driving practices as part of their operations;
- Identify the ten most dangerous locations in B&NES and implement coordinated and evidence-based changes to make them safer;
- Re-deployable average speed cameras at hotspots;
- A public awareness campaign on Vision Zero BANES with targeted education programmes that change road user attitudes and behaviour;
- Reduce risk through intelligence-led enforcement;
- Run an "Exchanging Places" programme to make HGV drivers, bus drivers and cyclists more aware of one another;
- Investigate the use of safer HGVs based on the Transport for London (TfL) policy;
- Review and reduce wait times for pedestrians at the ten busiest signalised crossings or junctions;
- Increase use of bicycles by Bath and North East Somerset officers while at work and add branding to bikes to set an example;
- Accelerate the rollout of School Streets and provide a road safety forum for schools.

**Council therefore resolves:**

1. Set a Vision Zero target for road deaths and serious injuries by 2030.
2. Include consideration of this target in all relevant council decisions and strategies e.g. road design and procurement, by implementing LTN1/20 when building any new walking, cycling and road projects or providing diversions around highway maintenance work.
3. Develop supplementary planning documents and/or other guidance to support the delivery of Vision Zero via BANES's Local Plan process and the Joint Local Transport Plan.
4. Work with partners and other organisations including West of England Combined Authority, Major Employers, Avon & Somerset Police, Avon Fire and Rescue, South West Ambulance Trust, First Bus, Faresaver, TIER, Developers and residents to achieve Vision Zero.
5. Work with the West of England Combined Authority and the surrounding Unitary Authorities to promote a joined-up approach to Vision Zero across the region.
6. Recognise the need for ongoing support to implement this motion and ensure that within the approved budget and existing staffing resource a Vision Zero approach is consistently used at all times.

7. Request the administration to report back to the relevant Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on progress towards these steps in 6 months' time.