



Active travel groups call on Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) candidates to tackle road crime

- The coalition of groups - representing those walking and cycling, and road crash victims - have launched a [manifesto](#) calling on PCC candidates to act on road danger
- Those walking and cycling are most at risk of being killed and injured by vehicles, and enforcement priorities should reflect this

Action Vision Zero, British Cycling, Cycling UK, Living Streets, Road Danger Reduction Forum, Sustrans, RoadPeace and 20s Plenty have formed a coalition calling on PCCs to tackle road crime.

As PCCs set police priorities and reflect the crime concerns of the community, the upcoming 2021 elections represent an opportunity to address the danger posed by road crime.

And road crime is an issue that the public wants to see addressed. A [survey](#) run by the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners found that 78% of people see a traffic offence on a daily or weekly basis. And 88% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that some of the money raised through fixed penalty notices should be reinvested into enforcement.

A [review by the coalition of the current Police and Crime Plans](#) (published by PCCs) found that whilst the majority listed road safety as a priority, few police services had published roads policing strategies.

Given the current government push to get more people walking and cycling, with a £2 billion investment in active travel schemes for local authorities, enforcement of traffic law should reflect this. Particularly given that those cycling and walking face greater risk.

In a crash with a car, the pedestrian is almost 300 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured (KSI) than the car occupant(s). When a cyclist has a collision with a car, they are almost 200 times more likely to be KSI than the car occupant(s) (DfT, 2020).

The risk that road danger poses to the public needs to be addressed. In Britain in 2019, 1,752 people were reported killed and 25,945 people reported seriously injured. Through setting police priorities, PCCs are able to ensure that roads policing protects those most at risk.

The manifesto calls on PCC candidates to:

1. Make road danger reduction a priority

By adopting a road danger reduction approach to Vision Zero, prioritising offences that pose most harm to others (including careless and dangerous driving), and supporting tougher sanctions and road crime teams, and treating road crime as real crime.

2. Tackle speeding - the greatest threat

By increasing speed enforcement and share of 20mph enforcement, as well as supporting 20mph limits and Community Speed Watch.

3. Be transparent and accountable

By publishing a roads policing strategy/plan, enforcement activity statistics and collision investigation outcomes.

4. Work with their community

By promoting third party reporting and Community Speed Watch, as well as funding community efforts, establishing Independent Roads Policing Advisory Groups and adopting best practice standards.

5. Improve the post-crash response

By funding support services for crash victims and ensuring thorough collision investigations.

Following the launch of the campaign this week, the coalition will be supporting local communities to contact their PCC candidates about tackling road crime.

Victoria Lebec, Head of Policy and Campaigns for RoadPeace, the national charity for road crash victims said

“At RoadPeace we see every day the devastation that road crashes cause. There is no police region in which road crime doesn’t blight the community with death and serious injury. Crash victims are often left without support as few PCCs currently fund services. This is something that communities want to see addressed, and we urge PCC candidates to adopt our manifesto calls.”

Jeremy Leach, Action Vision Zero

“Communities across the country have made it clear that it is time for PCCs to back their long-standing calls for safe roads; tackling road danger can have a huge impact on the communities that PCCs serve. This manifesto sets out clearly why roads policing needs to become more of a priority and how PCCs can make that happen. It should be an important part of what every PCC candidate is offering to their voters.”

Rod King MBE, Founder and Campaign Director, 20's Plenty for Us said

“The harm that speed and speeding causes completely outweighs any benefits to society. Some forces quietly condone speeding by failing to enforce and suppress the setting of appropriate lower speed limits. The 3rd decade of this century challenges us to increase active travel, and make our roads safer for all. Police have an important role in managing speed and need to fully engage with community needs to reduce the harm of fast and speeding motors.”

Mary Creagh, Chief Executive of Living Streets, said:

“Everyone who walks has the right to be safe on our streets. Behind every road casualty figure lies the human tragedy of lives ended, families devastated and futures destroyed. By committing to tackle road crime, PCC candidates can play their part in saving lives.

People on foot are doing their bit to tackle congestion, pollution and carbon emissions yet they are paying the price of our unsafe streets. Pedestrians must be protected with tough new sanctions for dangerous, irresponsible drivers.”

ENDS

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<https://actionvisionzero.org/police-crime-commissioner-elections-may-2021/>