

Best Value Introduction

Audit Scotland describes Best Value as “ensuring that there is good governance and effective management of resources, with a focus on improvement, to deliver the best possible outcomes for the public.” The duty of Best Value applies to all public bodies in Scotland. It is a statutory duty for local authorities, such as councils.

In 2016 a revised framework for the auditing of Best Value was approved by the Accounts Commission. A key element of the framework is the publication of a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for the council at least once during a five-year period. It is informed by the Annual Audit Report, other statutory reports and Audit Scotland reports including the Local Government Overview series (performance, finance) published annually.

The BVAR will be considered by the Commission, in public, and action may be required of the council. The fieldwork for the BVAR for Aberdeenshire Council will take place between February and April 2019.

The fieldwork for the development of the BVAR includes:

- Interviews with councillors, senior officers and partner organisations;
- Observation of council, committee and board meetings;
- Review of documents and performance data and;
- Focus groups with councillors, officers and community groups.

Each council’s BVAR incorporates an analysis of the Best Value characteristics aligned to the themes of:

- Vision and strategic direction;
- Performance;
- Use of resources;
- Partnership working;
- Improvement and transformation

Case Study Criteria

As part of our preparation for our Best Value Assurance Report we will be compiling a narrative to show the council's transformation since the last Best Value Audit. In order to do this, the Best Value Key Officer group will be sourcing case studies from all services. To ensure that the case study stays relevant to Best Value's key themes, the below criteria has been set out:

- Please ensure that a relevant link with BV criteria is demonstrated throughout
- Where relevant, please complete each section of the template as fully as possible
- Each section must contain narrative along with relevant links of evidence
- Each case study should show a consistent and clear link to at least one of the council's [11 priorities](#) (point 6).

Case Study Template

Infrastructure Services – Road Casualty Reduction Partnership

How does this link with the criteria of Best Value?

With the demise of the legacy Police Forces in 2013 the previous partnership arrangements for the delivery of Road Safety fell into abeyance for a period. Aberdeenshire Council with the support of the Chief Executives Forum re-established and refreshed the collaborative work and put in place a Road Casualty Reduction Strategy which aligned the ongoing commitments of the partners. This was taken through all relevant Committees, Boards and Management Teams including CPP structures. So for example this is the strategy as hosted on the Aberdeen City Council website <https://committees.aberdeencity.gov.uk/documents/s75677/CHI.17.239%20Appendix%204%20-%20Road%20Casualty%20Reduction%20Strategy%20-%20Final.pdf>

The approach to delivering the strategy has a Lead Officer Group with an Operational Group supported by a dedicated Co-ordinator. The progress of the partnership approach is reported annually to all partners and to the Chief Executives ensuring that there is good governance and effective management of resources, with a focus on improvement, to deliver the best possible outcomes for the public.

The Strategy has an agreed Vision and overall strategic direction, performance data on casualty statistics is collected and reported to partners and joint working and use of joint contracts ensures good use of resources. This includes the public facing element of what the partners are doing through a twitter account Road Safety North East Scotland <https://twitter.com/roadsafetynes?lang=en>

The partners work together to develop and improve the initiatives and projects to reduce the number and severity of road casualties on the road network. Work with motorcyclists and older drivers has been adopted nationally whilst the approach we have taken has been referred to as best practice in the recent Road Safety Framework Review by Transport Scotland.

How does this link to our priorities?

This supports the following Council Priorities

Have the best possible transport and digital links across our communities

Support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy

What research was undertaken to ensure best practice?

The Partners considered the work that had been done across various core areas and looked at what the core casualty data was showing us. The Lead Officers group also includes Road Safety Scotland who have supported work on issues such as engagement with foreign drivers via car hire firms. We undertook specific research work with Robert Gordons University on the effectiveness of our work with motorcyclists.

What was the background to the case study?

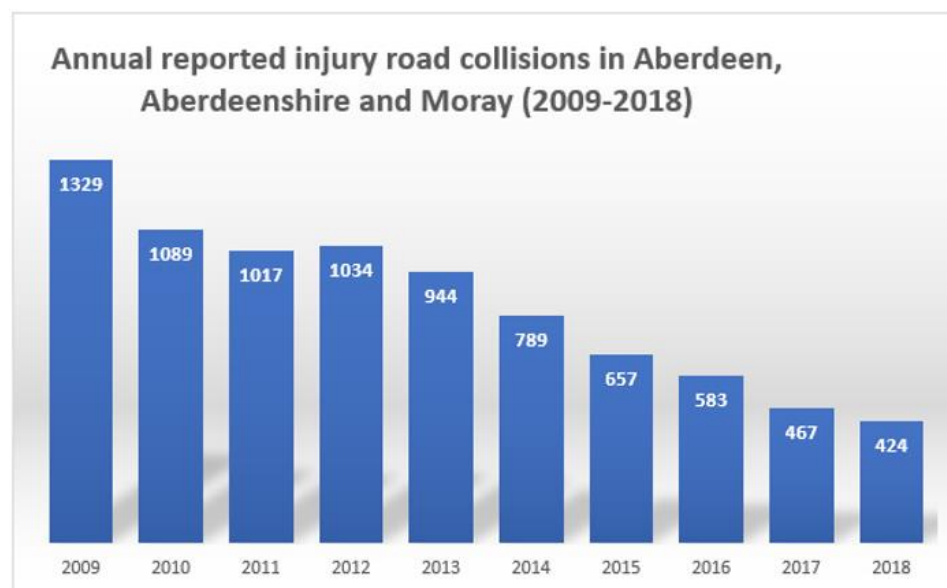
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What activity was undertaken?

The core activity was the establishment of effective partnership working with the common purpose of road casualty reduction. This included agreeing a joint vision and strategic approach, putting place formal arrangements to work collaboratively, providing a dedicated resource to support the work of partners and formally reporting progress to all partners.

How did this contribute to improved outcomes?

The reduction in road casualty numbers continues and the national targets for 2020 look as if they will be achieved.



How did this assist in delivering value for money?

Each fatality on the road network that is avoided can be valued as follows based on 2018 data.

RAS60003								
Total value of prevention ¹ of reported accidents by severity ² and cost element:								
GB 2018								
								£ million (2018 prices)
	Cost Elements							
	Casualty related costs				Accident related costs			
Accident severity	Lost output	Medical and Ambulance	Human costs		Police costs	Insurance and admin	Damage to property	Total
Fatal	1,215	11	2,386		36	1	22	3,670
Serious	668	401	4,556		58	5	137	5,825
Slight	344	146	1,641		63	13	343	2,551
All injury accidents	2,228	558	8,583		156	19	502	12,047

What did we learn?

That bringing partners together across multiple agencies with a common purpose can be done and be done effectively.

****Please attach any supporting documents/evidence relevant to the case study****