

Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 3 July 2015

Subject: Response to the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel review - 'Road Safety Around Schools'

Report by: Director for Transport, Environment, and Business Support

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Summary

The Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel conducted a review into road safety around schools.

2. Purpose of report

The purpose of the report is to respond to the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

3. Recommendations

That the Panel is thanked for its work in undertaking the review

That the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's recommendations be approved in line with the responses noted in paragraph 4 below

4. Response to Panel recommendations

- I. More be done to encourage schools to participate in the education programmes for child pedestrians offered by the council particularly for KS1 & 2 pupils and also in 'bikeability' training

Response:

The Director of Children's Services & Education and the Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support will encourage schools to contribute to education programmes for children, and seek to identify additional funding through Public Health, sponsorship, grant applications and income generation activities to continue to support the additional demand.

- II. Schools be encouraged to take some responsibility for road safety outside their schools at the start and end of the school day e.g. by having a regular teacher presence outside the school gates in a high visibility jacket.

Response:

Road Safety & Active Travel Manager to work with schools to encourage ownership of the issues.

- III. All the required improvements identified during the assessment of the signage and road markings associated with school safety to be carried out.

Response:

The Director of Transport, Environment and Business will, where appropriate, use Local Transport Plan capital and Public Health funding to address as many of these improvements as possible. Additional funding, through sponsorship, work with schools, grant applications and income generation activities will then be sought to complete the project.

- IV. The possibility of engaging with local businesses to sponsor bicycle safety equipment including cycle helmets, high visibility jackets and reflective bands be investigated.

Response:

The opportunity to sponsor bicycle safety equipment including cycle helmets, high visibility jackets and reflective bands will be opened to businesses.

- V. All cyclists featured in council literature and posters wear helmets and high visibility jackets and that the bicycles have lights.

Response:

Council materials will be used to promote messages around the use of appropriate cycle safety wear.

- VI. An officer presence (road safety officers, CEOs, Community Wardens and the police) outside schools to enforce the parking regulations, be continued.

Response:

Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support will continue to support this initiative based on available and deployable resources.

- VII. More be done to explain how parking regulations outside schools help ensure child safety and to make it clear that offenders will receive PCNs.

Response:

Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support will write to schools biannually to encourage schools to include messages around road safety in their newsletters.

- VIII. The Leader to write to all council contractors reaffirming the importance of complying with the parking regulations around schools to ensure pupils' safety.

Response:

The Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support will work with fellow senior managers to ensure this is stipulated in future contracts.

- IX. The Cabinet Member for Children & Education write to taxi companies requesting that they remind their drivers to comply with the law particularly around schools.

Response:

The Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Business Support will raise this issue at the appropriate Transport Liaison Group.

- X. The Cabinet Member for Children & Education write to Head Teachers reminding them of the importance of working together with the road safety team, the CEOs and the police to ensure the safety of pupils outside their schools and to allow officers to have a regular presence at parents' evenings.

Response:

This is currently underway.

- XI. The Cabinet Member for Children & Education writes to the Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner requesting that they prioritise road safety and working with schools when reviewing the service.

Response:

This work has already been undertaken.

- XII. The Council's representative on the Police & Crime Panel to request that the co-ordinator be given the training and resources required to carry out 'speedwatch' campaigns.

Response:

The Director of Regulatory Services, Community Safety & Troubled Families will work with the Council's Police & Crime Panel representative to review this request.

- XIII. The Cabinet Member for Children & Education writes to Ofsted requesting confirmation that its assessment of the behaviour and safety of pupils include the school's level of participation with the local authority regarding road safety.

Response:

The Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation raises the issue of road safety around schools at the appropriate Transport Liaison Group.

- XIV. The Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation raise the issue of road safety around schools at the Transport Liaison Group

Response:

The Cabinet Member for Traffic & Transportation raises the issue of road safety around schools at the appropriate Transport Liaison Group.

5. Background

The Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel set the objectives noted below.

Objective 1 - To understand why Portsmouth's child pedestrian casualty rate is 50% higher than the national average

Objective 2 - To understand why Portsmouth's child cycling casualty rate is double the national average

The Panel received evidence from officers, schools, pupils, Hampshire Constabulary, ward councillors. Members of the Panel also attended site meetings at schools, both with and without uniformed officers present.

The Panel's recommendations are noted in item 3 of the Traffic, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel's report and the responses to the recommendations noted in item 4 above.

6. Reasons for recommendations

The recommendations in this report acknowledge the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Panel and ensure that the Recommendations leading from the Panel's findings will be acted upon where resources allow.

7. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report, as the recommendations would not directly impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010

8. Legal implications

Legal commentary is contained within the body of the report. The legal implications arising from implementing the individual recommendations will be reviewed by the relevant officers as they are implemented.

9. Finance comments

There are 14 recommendations presented in this report in section four. Of these recommendations eight would not require any additional resource to be implemented.

Funding sources would need to be identified for all of the recommendations that require additional resource. This may result in recommendations coming forward to reprioritise or delay expenditure for activities that are currently being funded.

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Alan Cufley, Director of Transport, Environment and Business Support

Appendices:

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
TECS Scrutiny Panel report	Appendix 1 to report

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by Councillor Donna Jones - Leader of the Council