

## Response to Select Committee Scrutiny Inquiry

<b>Inquiry Title</b>	<b>Sustainable School Travel in Bucks</b>
<b>Select Committee Owner</b>	David Carroll, Chairman – Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee
<b>Date agreed by Select Committee</b>	21 March 2017
<b>Lead Cabinet Member</b>	Cabinet Member for Transportation
<b>Lead Senior Officer (Director)</b>	Joan Hancox, Head of Transport Strategy

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Senior Responsible Officer Owner	Action by date
<p><b>1:</b> That the Council clarifies its future approach to sustainable school travel work by:</p> <p><b>1a</b> Undertaking a return on investment analysis of sustainable school travel work to assess the wider benefits of investing in this area;</p> <p><b>1b</b> Following the analysis, the Council publishing its vision for sustainable school travel work</p> <p><b>1c</b> Adequately resourcing the achievement of its vision, including longer term contracts for officers and an increase in budget</p>	Yes – within existing resources	<p>Work has commenced on defining the scope of the return on investment analysis. It is important that this scope includes the areas identified as important by the committee's report, as well a range of benefits and costs associated with sustainable school travel. The analysis will need to cover the health and educational benefits outlined by Public Health in their evidence which included links to the Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy and how the school commute can build activity into daily life. It is the intention to progress this work immediately.</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	July 2017
		<p>The vision for sustainable travel to school will form part of a revised Sustainable Modes of Travel to School (SMoTS) Strategy. Work on revising and updating the existing SMoTS will commence shortly. This will be informed by the outcomes of the Return on Investment analysis.</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	August 2017
		<p>Resourcing requirements will be informed by the outcomes of the return on investment analysis. The committee should note that since the inquiry took place, the Transport Strategy service has appointed an interim Senior Transport Strategy Officer to manage Sustainable Travel services including School Travel Planning, and arrangements are in</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	June 2017

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		<p>place to advertise for a replacement permanent School Travel Planning Advisor.</p> <p>Alternative sources of funding may need to be explored if an increase in budget is identified or alternative low cost options within existing budgets.</p>			April 2018
<p><b>2:</b> That the Council develops and adopts a policy which clarifies its position on encouraging sustainable travel and the mitigation of transport impacts in relation to the expansion of current and development of new schools.</p>	Yes	<p>A specific set of policies in relation to the Council's consideration of development proposals are being drawn up (Development Management Policies). Generally these seek to ensure that developments encourage travel by sustainable modes and mitigate their own transport impact. The draft will be modified to make reference that these policies also apply to the Council's own development.</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	October 2017
<p><b>3:</b> That the Council adopts an holistic approach to the planning of new and expanding schools, including factoring infrastructure provision and mitigation measures to reduce car use in costings.</p>	Yes	<p>There are initial meetings with planners and highways to discuss the proposed development(s). Consideration is given to the infrastructure requirement and sustainable (travel) measures in relation to the development and their impact on the highway network. From this, plans are drawn up and costings prepared which form part of the business case and potential subsequent planning application. These are reported to ABS as part of the business case process.</p>	Councillor Zahir Mohammed	Paula Campbell-Balcombe	April 2017
<p><b>4:</b> That the Council addresses 'unsafe routes' to school for example through the Integrated Transport project, to ensure:</p> <p><b>4a</b> Prioritisation for regular/appropriate maintenance of routes to school where vegetation overgrowth jeopardises safety of the route.</p> <p><b>4b</b> An equal focus on the assessment of</p>	Yes – within existing resources	<p>Under the Integrated Transport Project a review will be undertaken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devise / amend existing protocols to include removal of overgrown vegetation on routes to school;</li> <li>• Provide an equal focus on primary school routes taking account of the different statutory entitlement groups;</li> <li>• Transport &amp; Admissions to undertake a return</li> </ul>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Phil Dyson	November 2017

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<p>primary schools routes.</p> <p><b>4c</b> A return on investment analysis for routes where the assessment's recommendation is for 'engineering' options to deliver a safe route to school.</p>		<p>on investment analysis for new highway engineering on safe routes to a school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional resources would be required to implement this recommendation. The review will need to consider low cost alternatives or what could be achieved with existing budgets.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>5:</b> That the Council develops and delivers a publicity campaign aimed at all schools, stakeholders and Parent and Parent Teacher Associations to highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role and responsibility of schools in promoting active travel for the school journey;</li> <li>The wider value and benefits to schools of active travel planning work e.g. higher educational attainment, links to other curriculum areas, Ofsted and health benefits; and</li> <li>The resources available to schools on schooltravelplanning.com and the value of the annual conference.</li> </ul>	Yes – within existing resources	<p>A minimum campaign can be delivered to all schools, stakeholders and Parent and Parent Teacher Associations in line with the recommendation using existing resources. In addition, work to improve and integrate website links between 'schooltravelplanning.com'; <a href="https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk">https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk</a> (the dedicated website for BCC schools) and bucks.gov.uk for school travel resources as well as those promoting physical activity can be accommodated within 17/18 work programme.</p> <p>Wider engagement, particularly with secondary schools would require additional resources. The return on investment work will seek to develop a robust business case for such investment. Potential alternative options which could be accommodated within existing budgets will also be investigated.</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	<p>Sept 2017</p> <p>April 2018</p>
<p><b>6:</b> That the Council raises the profile of sustainable travel planning amongst schools by ensuring STP activity is included regularly on the agenda of the Head Teacher Liaison Group, BASH and any other school liaison meetings.</p>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Travel items to be included for future Head Teacher Liaison Group and BASH Meetings.</li> <li>The Transport Strategy team and Education team to develop joint working to ensure recommendation is implemented.</li> </ul>	Councillor Zahir Mohammed	Education Officer to be confirmed	Nov 2017

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<p><b>7:</b> That a Member briefing session is held on the Member advocacy role in working with schools on School Travel Plans and promoting sustainable travel for the school journey. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on the self help toolkits for schools and how they can be used;</li> <li>• How the Council can help support schools;</li> <li>• Providing the tools and information to deal with complaints and challenges;</li> <li>• How Members can help schools address issues and identify solutions in their community leader role.</li> </ul>	Yes	<p>The Transport Strategy team will devise a member briefing with accompanying literature (info pack) on school travel, focusing in particular on how members can best act as advocates. This will include signposting to resources as outlined in 5; case studies on how the Council and Members themselves can support; national and local context of successful work in the field of sustainable travel. We will include our partners too.</p> <p>We will investigate using existing BCC procedures to respond to complaints and challenges, and if necessary, bring in additional protocols.</p> <p>In addition to the Member briefing session and pack, we investigate how best to provide succinct regular information to members for example which schools are participating in walk to school or delivering Bikeability.</p> <p>On the wider role of Members helping schools to address issues and identify solutions as part of their community leader role – this needs to be incorporated into the wider Member training.</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	Sept 2017