

## Report to Cabinet

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Sustainable School Travel in Buckinghamshire</b>
<b>Date:</b>	Monday 24 April 2017
<b>Date can be implemented:</b>	Wednesday 03 May 2017
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<b>Local members affected:</b>	All Members
<b>Portfolio areas affected:</b>	Transportation and Education & Skills

*For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444*

### Summary

The Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee agreed to undertake an Inquiry into Sustainable School Travel in Buckinghamshire with a view to understanding:

- how to reduce problems around schools, associated with travelling to school by car
- the challenges around encouraging people to use alternative methods of transport.

The Committee also wished to consider planning for the future and the impact of growth in Buckinghamshire.

Evidence was gathered through desktop research, a number of online surveys with Local Area Forums, Schools and Junior Road Safety officers, a full day evidence session with officers and national experts and a stakeholder roundtable discussion with 24 stakeholders.

The Inquiry Group found that Buckinghamshire has been recognised nationally for its work on Sustainable Travel and School Travel Planning, but was disappointed to hear that Council resources to support schools in developing and promoting travel plans had been significantly reduced. In light of the growth in Buckinghamshire, Members believe this is an opportune time for the Council to clarify its overall approach to sustainable school travel.

The attached report (Appendix 1) outlines the Inquiry Group's key findings and recommendations.

## **Recommendation**

**1: That the Council clarifies its future approach to sustainable school travel work by:**

**1a Undertaking a return on investment analysis of sustainable school travel work to assess the wider benefits of investing in this area;**

**1b Following the analysis, the Council publishing its vision for sustainable school travel work**

**1c Adequately resourcing the achievement of its vision, including longer term contracts for officers and an increase in budget**

**2: 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.**

**3: 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.**

**4: That the Council addresses 'unsafe routes' to school for example through the Integrated Transport project, to ensure:**

**4a Prioritisation for regular/appropriate maintenance of routes to school where vegetation overgrowth jeopardises safety of the route.**

**4b An equal focus on the assessment of primary schools routes.**

**4c A return on investment analysis for routes where the assessment's recommendation is for 'engineering' options to deliver a safe route to school.**

**5: That the Council develops and delivers a publicity campaign aimed at all schools, stakeholders and Parent and Parent Teacher Associations to highlight:**

- **The role and responsibility of schools in promoting active travel for the school journey;**
- **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**
- **The resources available to schools on [schooltravelplanning.com](http://schooltravelplanning.com) and the value of the annual conference.**

**6: 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.**

**7: 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:**

- **Information on the self help toolkits for schools and how they can be used;**
- **How the Council can help support schools;**
- **Providing the tools and information to deal with complaints and challenges;**

- **How Members can help schools address issues and identify solutions in their community leader role.**

**A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision**

Please see report attached at Appendix 1.

**B. Other options available, and their pros and cons**

Please see report attached at Appendix 1.

**C. Resource implications**

The resource implications of all recommendations are to be considered as part of Cabinet's response to the Inquiry report.

**D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment**

See above

**E. Legal implications**

N/A

**F. Property implications**

N/A

**G. Other implications/issues**

N/A

**H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views**

N/A

**I. Communication issues**

Cabinet's response to the Inquiry report and recommendations will be published.

**J. Progress Monitoring**

Where recommendations are agreed by Cabinet, the lead officer for each recommendation will be asked to provide a written progress update to the lead Cabinet Member. The Cabinet Member and relevant officers will be invited to the Select Committee to follow-up on the progress of the recommendations at 6 & 12 months.

**K. Review**

As above.

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**Background Papers**

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***Your questions and views***

*If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.*

*If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Member Services Team by 5.00pm on Friday 21 April 2017. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)*