






6 Month Recommendation progress update for Select Committee Scrutiny Inquiry



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



Recommendation	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Senior Responsible Officer Owner	Action by date	6 Month Progress Update	Progress update (September 2018)
<p>1: That the Council clarifies its future approach to sustainable school travel work by:</p> <p>1a Undertaking a return on investment analysis of sustainable school travel work to assess the wider benefits of investing in this area;</p> <p>1b Following the analysis, the Council publishing its vision for sustainable school travel work</p> <p>1c Adequately resourcing the achievement of its vision, including longer term contracts for officers and an increase in budget</p>	<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 & Wellbeing Strategy and how the school commute can build activity into daily life. It is the intention to progress this work immediately.</p> <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</p>	<p>Councillor Mark Shaw</p> <p>Councillor Mark Shaw</p> <p>Councillor Mark Shaw</p>	<p>Joan Hancox</p> <p>Joan Hancox</p> <p>Joan Hancox</p>	<p>July 2017</p> <p>August 2017</p> <p>June 2017</p>	<p>1a & 1b Work is underway to clarify the future approach and priorities for sustainable school travel work, delays in successfully recruiting a school travel officer have impacted on the production of the ROI report and SMOTS. Work on the ROI study and SMOTs has started.</p> <p>1c We were unable to secure a suitably experienced school travel adviser and so appointed a graduate trainee in October.</p> <p>Committee RAG Status at 23rd January 2018</p> <p> Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</p>	<p>1a <u>Return on Investment:</u> In July 2018 Benefit to Cost Ratios were prepared for walking and cycling for the four districts in Bucks using the 'Health Economic Assessment Tool' (HEAT). This has not, as yet, been used to determine the scale, type or location of transport investment but could be very useful in the future. The key findings were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an extraordinarily high BCR if BCC invests in walking, especially in AVDC and WDC areas • There is a very high BCR if BCC invests in cycling in the AVDC area, and a good BCR if BCC invests in WDC cycling schemes • There is a poor BCR if BCC invests in cycling schemes in the CDC and SBDC areas. <p>1b. <u>Vision:</u> This is contained in BCC's Getting to School Strategy which refers to the need to "<i>promote sustainable and active travel as the first and best choice to and from education</i>". The strategy has been formally adopted.</p>



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<p>Agreed: Yes – within existing resources</p>	<p>Return on Investment analysis.</p> <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 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>			<p>April 2018</p>		<p>1c. <u>Level of Resources</u>: The graduate appointed in October 2017 left in July 2018, so BCC is trying to recruit again. In the meantime the two School Crossing Patrol and Sustainable Travel Supervisors have temporarily taken on some of the school travel planning initiatives.</p> <p><u>Committee RAG Status following 12 month review of implementation review on 25 September 2018.</u></p> <p>The committee acknowledged the resource issues the service had faced and the implication of this on the ability to progress the recommendations. The committee therefore agreed to provide a further 6 months for recommendations to be driven forward. A further review in 6 months' time would take place to allow for the recruitment of the new school travel planning officer.</p> <p> <i>Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</i></p> <p>Points members want to review in 6 months' time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The success of the current recruitment process and impact of the new person in post on driving the recommendations forward.


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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence that the cost benefit analysis is being used to help inform targeted work/prioritisation of support to schools to promote sustainable school travel. • The implementation and embedding of the “Getting to School Strategy”. Timescales?
<p>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.</p> <p>Agreed: Yes</p>	<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>	<p>Councillor Mark Shaw</p>	<p>Joan Hancox</p>	<p>Oct 2017</p>	<p>The Council published a new Development Management Policy for Consultation in August 2017: https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s100439/BCC%20Development%20Management%20Policy%20-%20CONSULTATION%20DRAFT.pdf</p> <p>This document sets out our general approach to how we consider the impacts of new developments, including the expansion of schools, and establishing ‘first principles’ by which developers should engage with us. It also proposes minimum thresholds at which we would expect travel plans to be produced. For use class D1 (which is where schools are), the thresholds are as per the DfT Guidance, which is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 500-1000sqm = Transport Statement and Travel Plan Statement - 1000sqm+ = Transport Assessment and Travel Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Highways Development Management Guidance was adopted by the Council in July 2018, available at https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/transport-plans-and-policies/ <p> Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</p> <p>Members will want to review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Highways Development Management Guidance links to the Getting to school strategy mentioned above. • Clarity on the Councils’ overall vision for sustainable school travel and that various policies and guidance on this align. • If the Sustainable Travel Planning guidance revision was completed–


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					<p>Statement</p> <p>For travel planning, this document refers to the Sustainable Travel Plan Guidance that we are looking to revise. Further work is required to update this guidance but not yet started.</p> <p>Committee RAG Status at 23rd January 2018</p> <p> Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</p>	<p>what were the changes, how have they improved support to schools – what difference has it made (mentioned in 6 month update)?</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Agreed: Yes</p>	<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>	<p>Councillor Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Paula Campbell-Balcombe</p>	<p>April 2017</p>	<p>Monthly meetings set up with planners to discuss forthcoming proposal to ensure transport matters are discussed from outset and factored into proposals. Early pre application meetings being undertaken to discuss projects. Schools informed at outset of the need to ensure travel plans are up to date.</p> <p>Education Site Requirements for S106 amended to ensure that Developers bear the cost of all infrastructure requirements associated with new schools.</p> <p>Committee RAG Status at 23rd January 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The School Commissioning Team has maintained regular engagement with the previous Travel Planners from an early stage and the Travel Planner is also invited to all pre-application meetings. Regular meetings with Planners/School Commissioning/Travel Planning Teams to be reinstated following recent changes in personnel. <p> Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</p> <p>At the additional update members will want to be assured that these regular meeting have been re-established and</p>

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					 <p>Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</p>	<p>running effectively once the new school travel planner is recruited.</p>
<p>4: That the Council addresses 'unsafe routes' to school for example through the Integrated Transport project, to ensure:</p> <p>4a Prioritisation for regular/appropriate maintenance of routes to school where vegetation overgrowth jeopardises safety of the route.</p> <p>4b An equal focus on the assessment of primary schools routes.</p> <p>4c 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>Agreed: Yes within existing resources</p>	<p>Under the Integrated Transport Project a review will be undertaken to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devise / amend existing protocols to include removal of overgrown vegetation on routes to school; • Provide an equal focus on primary school routes taking account of the different statutory entitlement groups; • Transport & Admissions to undertake a return on investment analysis for new highway engineering on safe routes to a school. • 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. 	Councillor Mark Shaw	Lucy Fenton	November 2017	<p>3 routes have been confirmed as requiring vegetation clearance. Once the work has been completed and confirmed back to BCC, the routes will be reassessed and deemed whether they are now safe or not. If the routes are deemed safe then the route will be reclassified work will start on the home2school transport changes.</p> <p>Business as usual continues for;</p> <p>4a Where routes have been identified which are unsafe as a result of vegetation overgrowth, maintenance of the route has been arranged through the Transport for Bucks clearance programme and the safety of routes is then reviewed and where appropriate reclassified as safe to walk</p> <p>4b All routes are assessed and prioritised based on the level of potential saving we believe could be achieved, this will include both primary and secondary routes</p> <p>4c Where routes have been identified which would require capital works to be classified as safe to walk, a full cost analysis is carried out and a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requests for improvements (including maintenance) to 'unsafe' walking and cycling routes to school are usually forwarded to Local Area Technicians. For sustainable travel to school to work, there is therefore a reliance on TfB budgets being sufficient to address any problems and ensure a good travel to school experience. <p> Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</p> <p>At the additional review in 6 months' time the committee expect an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear definition of what safe/unsafe routes are. • How well is this process working to ensure walking routes are made safe? Members want evidence in the form of over the previous 6 months how many routes are reported and made safe for children to use the routes to walk to school.





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					<p>decision taken on the basis of this evidence on whether the works should be commissioned</p> <p>Committee RAG Status at 23rd January 2018</p> <p> Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</p>	
<p>5: 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"> • 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 	<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; https://schoolsweb.buckscc.gov.uk (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</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	<p>Sept 2017</p> <p>April 2018</p>	<p>Work to deliver a campaign to all schools has not been delivered. Current resources are being used to continue support to primary schools</p> <p>An invitation was sent to all schools on the benefits of attending the School Travel Conference. This conference was attended by 30 primary schools and 2 secondary schools and included a presentation on health benefits, links to PE and LEAP</p> <p>A Junior Road Safety Officer Fun Day has also been run for primary schools and 150 pupils from 36 schools attended</p> <p>Work has commenced on integrating web resources – the new graduate officer has received web training,</p> <p>No work has yet started on exploring alternative options within existing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A publicity campaign is a key objective for officers and would allow the School Travel Planner, and the two School Crossing Patrol and Sustainable Travel Supervisors, to professionally demonstrate the options available to schools (the majority of which are listed in section 7 following). The campaign will be taken forward by the next School Travel Planner, just as soon as there is an opportunity to do so. <p> Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented.</p> <p>At the next review the committee will want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that this work is being driven forward following recruitment of new school travel planning officer.

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<p>health benefits; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The resources available to schools on schooltravelplanning.com and the value of the annual conference. <p>Agreed: yes within existing resources</p>	<p>options which could be accommodated within existing budgets will also be investigated.</p>				<p>budgets.</p> <p>Committee RAG Status at 23rd January 2018</p> <p> Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that effective collaboration and joined up working between various work streams relevant to transport and school travel has taken place If this were to be de-prioritised, reasons as to why and any impacts etc. should be provided.
<p>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.</p> <p>Agreed: Yes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Travel items to be included for future Head Teacher Liaison Group and BASH Meetings. The Transport Strategy team and Education team to develop joint working to ensure recommendation is implemented. 	<p>Councillor Mike Appleyard</p>	<p>Education Officer to be confirmed</p>	<p>Nov 2017</p>	<p>Senior Leader Officer in Transport Strategy is working with Education team to include items on the Head Teacher meetings; Item on the agenda for Primary Executive (Heads) Board on 7th December. Agenda. Engagement with BASH has been postponed until further work on how we might engage with secondary schools is clarified. We will be attending Primary School Business Managers Seminars on 28/30 Nov. Additional communications are being made via school bulletins.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last School Travel Planner presented to BASH, the Bucks Association of Secondary Heads. This visit was successful with follow up enquiries from two schools - Chiltern Academy and Dr Challoner's Grammar. The School Travel Planner also attended meetings with school Business Managers (for primary as well as secondary schools) and twice wrote articles for inclusion in their newsletters. <p> Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</p> <p>Whilst this recommendation was delivered. At the additional update in 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members want to ensure that the promotion and profile of school travel planning continues going

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						<p>forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members want an update on whether it has continued to be on the agenda of relevant meetings and any outcomes.
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Agreed : Yes</p>	<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</p>	Councillor Mark Shaw	Joan Hancox	Sept 2017	<p>Work will commence on this work stream in December and was delayed due to the recruitment issues as described in 1.</p> <p>Members were able to discuss school travel plans with officers at the New Members Market Place in the summer.</p> <p>Committee RAG Status at 23rd January 2018</p>  <p>Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Member Briefings</u>: The briefings would have merit but have not been held so far. <p>In the interim, Transport Strategy is keen to improve the information circulated to Members: Spreadsheets with STARS (<u>Sustainable Travel And Road Safety</u>) information, split by ward and enumeration district, have previously been sent out to Members. The School Travel Planner also collated additional information that Councillors can access.</p> <p>One aim is to send a note at the end of the school year to all County Councillors identifying which schools have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> accredited travel plans (and of what standard) School Crossing Patrollers School Travel Co-ordinations Junior Road Safety Officers Footsteps training Bikeability training 'Going for Gold' initiatives Walk Once a Week (WoW) initiatives Bespoke 'walking zone' maps

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	issues and identify solutions as part of their community leader role – this needs to be incorporated into the wider Member training.					<p>Currently this work has been put back following the departure of the school travel planner.</p> <p>There remains the much wider issue as to how Members could become community advocates for the schools in their areas.</p> <p> Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented.</p> <p>Member have acknowledged the resource issue within the service and have agreed to have a further update in 6 months to ensure that this work is being driven forward once a travel planner is recruited.</p>

RAG Status Guidance (For the Select Committee's Assessment)

	<i>Recommendation implemented to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>		<i>Committee have concerns the recommendation may not be fully delivered to its satisfaction</i>
	<i>Recommendation on track to be completed to the satisfaction of the committee.</i>		<i>Committee consider the recommendation to have not been delivered/implemented</i>