

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting24th April 2008

1. Title of Item/Report

Report of Regeneration and Transport Select Committee - Review of Sustainable School Travel Strategy

2. Record of the Decision

Members considered a report that set out the findings and recommendations from the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee's review of the Sustainable School Travel Strategy. The report examined home to school travel and transport in the borough; the take-up and effectiveness of school travel plans amongst Stockton's schools; the travel and transport and facilitating measures necessary to assist in the effective provision of safe and sustainable school travel in Stockton; governance issues surrounding sustainable school travel; and links to the Building Schools for the Future programme. Members noted the importance for School Travel Plans to be a standing item on each School Governing Body meeting, to ensure that these be developed.

RESOLVED that:-

(1) the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee would be provided with updates on the impact of the new statutory walking distances on choice of schools and the statutory provision of transport managed by the Community Transport Service.

(2) the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee would write to the governing bodies of those schools without a school travel plan to encourage them to complete a school travel plan.

(3) the Road Safety Team would consider ways of celebrating those schools with an authorised travel plan in conjunction with, for example, the 'Crucial Crew' Initiative and the Electoral, Civic and Community Engagement Team.

(4) the Road Safety Team would design a school travel plan logo or insignia which could be used by schools to signify that they had an authorised school travel plan.

(5) consideration would be given to the levels of support to the school travel plan implementation and audit processes to ensure adequate staff resources were in place.

(6) the Road Safety Team would implement a monitoring and accreditation scheme for all schools with a school travel plan.

(7) the Sustainable School Travel Strategy Action Plan would be amended to more accurately reflect the number of visits to schools made by the enforcement service, which would enable performance to be further developed.

(8) the early implementation of bridges linking Ingleby Barwick to Yarm and Eaglescliffe through the Connect 2 project be pursued to provide the option for safe and sustainable pedestrian and cycling routes to school for students living in Ingleby Barwick.

(9) information relating to school travel plans be made available annually as part of the Sustainable School Travel Strategy, on Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's website and on schools websites.

(10) the Select Committee would be provided with updates relating to progress on new methods of cashless payments and real-time public transport information.

(11) the Road Safety Team would adopt new ways of promoting school travel planning in Stockton Borough, that utilised other services and initiatives, for example the Healthy Schools and Eco Schools Initiatives.

(12) the Road Safety Team would be represented on an obesity strategy development group in order to ensure that the role of school travel planning is captured in an obesity strategy.

(13) the Road Safety Team and the Extended Schools Team would work in partnership to ensure sustainable school travel issues were considered as part of the Extended Schools programme.

(14) the Road Safety Team, the Building Schools for the Future Team, and Planning Services would work in partnership to ensure sustainable school travel issues were considered as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The review was undertaken in response to a Cabinet referral of the Sustainable School Travel Strategy to Executive Scrutiny for

consideration and possible inclusion in a Select Committee's work programme. Reference was made by Cabinet to School Travel Plans, which were mentioned in the Strategy and Cabinet suggested that as part of any future review the relevant Select Committee may wish to consider to what degree plans were implemented and how effective they were. The topic was confirmed by Executive Scrutiny Committee in September 2007 and the Regeneration and Transport Select Committee began their review of the Sustainable School Travel Strategy in December 2007 with the issues outlined by Cabinet taken into account.

The Committee had learnt that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was below the national average for the percentage of schools with authorised school travel plans. However, the Committee also identified that many schools in the borough had undertaken school travel plans and implemented many practical measures designed to increase sustainable travel to their school. It was hoped that these resolutions may assist in increasing the number of schools completing travel plans and facilitate the identification and sharing of good practice.

The Committee also considered how sustainable school travel 'joins-up' with a series of other initiatives and had made recommendations in relation to this, and requested further information on certain issues as it becomes available.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not Applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

By no later than midnight on Friday, 2nd May 2008

Proper Officer
28 April 2008