

**AGENDA ITEM
REPORT TO CRIME &
DISORDER SELECT
COMMITTEE**

3 MARCH 2016

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH &
DEVELOPMENT**

SCHOOL PARKING REVIEW

SUMMARY

This report sets out the work to date in response to Members comments and agreed actions regarding the Scrutiny Review of school parking issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That committee note the content of the report and further actions be pursued.

BACKGROUND

1. Following site visits, attendance at Chair of Governor's meeting and information on enforcement, Members raised several issues for further investigation.

Education

2. Education is an important part of the review and measures have been suggested. Using Road Safety education tools so that children are informed of the increased risks associated with parking around school entrances should be introduced via the 'School champion' or Junior Road Safety Officer packs. This will involve a child being 'appointed' as a school lead and taking ownership of disseminating information around the school, thereby raising awareness.
3. Members have suggested reward or recognition for schools that participate and are seen to be influencing parking behaviours around schools. This could involve the Mayor.
4. It was also suggested that a video presentation be provided for schools to show to parents as part of welcome meetings at the start of the new school term. The video will include excerpts from body camera footage of inappropriate behaviours experienced by Enforcement Officers.
5. It is suggested that additional sustainable travel measures such as walking buses be introduced in schools to encourage travelling to school by means other than the private car.
6. It has also been suggested that a campaign involving travelling to school be carried out to help parents make informed choices.
7. Cleveland Police have also contacted the Council regarding safety issues relating to driving around schools. This is something that they are keen to take forward and work in partnership with the force area Local Authorities. This will be investigated further and reported back to a future committee.

Enforcement

8. The Council has worked in conjunction with the Police in developing a 'Park Smart' leaflet. This has predominantly been to support the blind and visually impaired as there is a national campaign to raise awareness about pavement parking. It is suggested that a protocol be developed and agreed to ensure that appropriate people are issuing the notices to ensure that it complies with appropriate legislation against fly posting and littering.
9. Enforcement of parking is undertaken by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers and Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers. Details of what offences can be enforced are including in the technical note included at Appendix 1.
10. Members have requested that details of camera car enforcement for parking offences be provided. CCTV enforcement can be undertaken on school zig zags, bus stop clearways and bus lanes to ensure that these transport routes are kept moving for safety reasons.
11. During 2014, the Government carried out a consultation on the use of CCTV for enforcement purposes, the outcome of which was to limit the areas of enforcement by CCTV, meaning that cycleways, waiting and loading restrictions could no longer be enforced without a PCN being fixed to the windscreen of the vehicle. This became law through the Deregulation Bill.
12. Members have requested details about using a camera car for enforcement purposes. Details and costs are currently being sought as follows:
 - Capital cost of vehicle
 - Software information details: GPS, maps and traffic Orders
 - Ongoing revenue resource costs: staff, maintenance and vehicle running costs
 - Back office resource costs (processing the PCN, obtaining vehicle details etc.)
 - Potential revenue from enforcement
13. Middlesbrough Council have provided details of their camera enforcement that has been undertaken and they have issued 1435 numbers of Penalty Charge Notices via this method in approximately 18 months.
14. Information regarding Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) has also been looked into. A PSPO to prevent parking around a school (during specified times or at all times) could be introduced if the grounds are met as they are intended to prevent stop anti-social behaviour but the legislation would not prevent it being used in these circumstances.
15. In order to implement such an Order then we have to be satisfied, on reasonable grounds, that 1) activities carried on in a public place have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and 2) that the effect of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, or is likely to be such as to make the activities unreasonable and justifies the restrictions imposed.
16. One disadvantage of PSPO's is that they only last for up to three years and must be extended if necessary, for three years at a time. There is a consultation process to follow, notifying all persons with an interest in the area (so all owners/occupiers, the school and potentially parents of children of the school) and publicising the proposal. This applies to the original making of the order and each extension.
17. The enforcement of a breach of the PSPO is by way of prosecution or by issue of a fixed penalty notice by which the prosecution will not be issued if the offender pays the fixed penalty sum (which cannot exceed £100). Those who have appropriate authorisation are able to issue a fixed penalty notice. Further clarification on whether the current Traffic

Regulation Order would need to be revoked and how they are signed is currently being sought. As with the current Traffic Orders the effectiveness of such an Order will be dependent on compliance and enforcement.

Community Transport

18. Members have requested information regarding what is statutory for the Council to deliver as part of the Community Transport Service. New guidance was published by the Government in 2015 and the Transition Team are currently undertaking a review of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy. It is suggested that the Lead Officer be made aware of the actions to date and any future recommendations to ensure that any matters within the review are accounted for appropriately.

School Admissions and Policies

19. Members have requested information regarding school admissions, staggered start and finish times and before and after school provision.
20. There is no guidance available or requests made of parents to consider the way in which children will make their way to their chosen schools. School admission guidance is available and can be made available for the Committee if required. Regarding after school club provision, there is no central organisation of information – it is up to schools and there is a wide variety of practice, although they do need to be Ofsted registered and inspected.

FINANCIAL POSITION

21. No financial implications have currently been identified.

ACTIONS

22. Should Committee support the recommendation then the following actions are required:
 - Junior Road Safety Officer package be pulled together with details of how it can be rolled out in schools.
 - Information supporting production of a video to be shared with schools including indicative costs.
 - Sustainable travel measures be considered by schools with details on how information can be provided.
 - Work with Cleveland Police on a campaign centred on driving around schools.
 - A Protocol be developed for dissemination of the Park Smart leaflet.
 - Information on the operation of a Camera car be provided.
 - Information be provided about the school parking review to be included where appropriate as part of the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

Name of Contact Officer: Joanne Roberts
Post Title: Traffic & Network Safety Manager
Telephone No: 01642 528709
Email Address: joanne.roberts@stockton.gov.uk