

Regeneration and Transport Select Committee

Review of Sustainable School Travel Strategy

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 5 February 2008

Update on Progress (including issues/ problems/ successes)

The current topic for review is the Sustainable School Travel Strategy. This was referred to Executive Scrutiny by Cabinet in August. Cabinet suggested that School Travel Plans be considered as part of the review, in relation to what degree they had been implemented in Stockton and how effective they have been.

The review scope and project plan was determined by the Committee in January following the first tripartite meeting which took place in December. The Committee took evidence from Neil Ellison, Group Leader in Road Safety; and Betty Johns, Assistant Education Officer (Pupils and Students), who provided introductions to the Sustainable School Travel Strategy and School Travel Plans. The Committee has also received evidence from Bill Trewick, Traffic and Road Safety Manager; Elizabeth Bird, Community Transport Manager; and John Kavanagh, Senior Engineer and Public Transport Manager, who provided information on traffic and road safety practice and statutory and non-statutory school travel and transport in Stockton.

The Committee is still to receive evidence from officers concerning the childhood health and environmental considerations of school travel, how parking restrictions are enforced around schools, and from the Regional School Travel Advisor. The Committee has set aside one meeting to hear from members of the Road Safety team and from three of Stockton's schools, Tilery, Junction Farm, and Conyers, as examples of good practice.

A questionnaire is also being sent to all of Stockton's schools with and without a School Travel Plan.

Timescale for Review

The review is currently on schedule with a view to the final report being presented to Cabinet in April 2008.