

**READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	10 MARCH 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	SCHOOL EXPANSION AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a further update to the Sub-Committee on the progress made towards encouraging sustainable travel to school through the development of new Travel Plans for the Primary Schools that are expanding this autumn.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 That in consultation with the chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultations and advertise changes to waiting restrictions and introduce school keep clear restrictions as listed in 4.1 of this report and Appendix 1 in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.
- 2.3 That in consultation with the chair of the Sub-Committee, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport and Ward Councillors, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out statutory consultations and advertise 20 mph speed limit as defined within 4.1 of this report and shown on the drawing Appendix 2 in accordance with the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

- 2.4 That subject to no objections received, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- 2.5 That any objections received following the statutory advertisement be reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The proposals are in line with current Transport, Education and Planning Policy.
- 3.2 Specifically, the proposals are in line with the objectives set out in The Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS), March 2010, and the School Expansion and Sustainable Travel in Reading Traffic Management Sub-Committee report, March 2014.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 As a part of the development process a number of alterations, works and proposals have already been identified in improving access to the schools. These works have already been identified and list as an appendix to the January 2016 TM Sub-committee report. In order to progress the works that involve traffic regulation orders (TROs) permission is now required so that proposals can be promoted and changes introduced for September and the start of the new term. Appendix 1 is a revised copy of the list that was submitted to the January 2016 meeting of the Sub-committee with the changes required. Changes to waiting restrictions including alterations to school keep clear markings are required at: EP Collier Primary School, Ridgeway Primary School, Southcote Primary School, Alfred Sutton Primary School and the new Civitas Primary School (Hodsoll Road). In addition, all the streets around EP Collier Primary School it is proposed to make 20mph with the introduction of the lower speed limit. Appendix 2 shows the area of the 20 mph proposal extending across the residential streets from Cardiff Road to Randolph Road and all roads between. Again, permission is being asked for to promote this 20mph proposal through the statutory consultation process as the lower speed limits requires a traffic regulation order (TRO).
- 4.2 Schools are now reporting a growing interest in scooting to/from school and this has also been encouraged through the Bike It programme. Schools are requesting Scooterpods to allow children to park their scooters. These can be funded through s.106 monies.
- 4.3 Following last May's School Travel Plan workshop to enable schools to draft their Travel Plans together and to exchange ideas, a second

Travel Plan workshop to focus on implementation of the Travel Plans is being planned for this summer. Again schools will be encouraged to attend and to exchange ideas and receive new information on state of the art approaches and tried and tested ideas on implementing Travel Plans.

- 4.4 A pilot study is about to commence at two expanding schools in the Borough to investigate ways to further incentivise children to walk, cycle and scoot to school. This pilot study will inform the next Travel Plan workshop. The intention is to build on the successes of Beat the Street and to provide further incentives throughout the year to encourage children to keep travelling to school actively and sustainably. Free resources and experience from the SWITCH EU project (Reading is a Follower city) will be used including leaderboards, games, in school competitions and the use of pedometers to challenge pupils and their families to keep travelling actively and sustainably.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The delivery of School Travel Plans as outlined in this report help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:
- Providing the best life through education, early help and healthy living.
 - Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Public planning exhibition events were held at each expanding school for parents, pupils, staff and the neighbouring communities in 2014 to inform the community about the proposed building works and their impact. Comments and concerns related to transport issues, particularly parking and extra road traffic were gathered at these events and informed the planning application submissions and the School Travel Plans. Once the Travel Plans are submitted, these are accessible to the public on the Council's website.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any future proposals for waiting and movement restrictions would be advertised under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 In addition to the Human Rights Act 1998 the Council is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 requires the Council to have due regard to the need to:-

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Council has carried out an equality impact assessment scoping exercise, and considers that the proposals do not have a direct impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

8.3 School Travel Plans are by their nature inclusive, since they plan for the needs of children, their parents and carers and the wider community around the school neighbourhood. By encouraging active travel, the needs of all people are included in the Travel Plan regardless of car ownership or access to a car. By including pupils in the monitoring and review process, children have a voice in the decisions made. In this way, the Travel Plans will help promote equality, social inclusion and a safe and healthy environment for all.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 The Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMOTS) March 2010.

10.2 School Expansion and Sustainable Travel in Reading, Traffic Management Sub-Committee report, March 2014, November 2015 and January 2016.

Appendix 1 - list of works identified within the development process.

Geoffrey Field Infant / Junior Schools

Pedestrian crossing on Northumberland Avenue.
Infants school - 3nr new pedestrian barriers on Northumberland Avenue protecting new pedestrian entrance into school.

EP Collier Primary

New vehicle staff car park entrance on Ross Road.
Stopping up and reinstatement of footpaths at existing vehicle entrances on York Road.
Relocation of pedestrian barriers on York Road to reflect new pedestrian access into school.
Disabled pedestrian access ramp to new school entrance from Swansea Road
New cycle shelter & 6 Sheffield cycle stands for staff.
Cycle store with 3 Sheffield cycle stands and scooter pod for 10 scooters for pupils.
Cycle store with 9 Sheffield cycle stands for pupils.
Alterations to existing TROs (waiting restrictions) to reflect the new accesses. Review of the existing School keep clear markings with restrictions adjusted to reflect the new entrances.
Expansion of the existing 20mph around the school to all streets

Ridgeway Primary School

School keep clear markings on Linden Road - to be re-marked
New school vehicle entrance on from highways land on Hillbrow - new vehicle only entrance to school
TRO - yellow lines on junction of Hillbrow / Whitley wood Road to prevent parking on junction.
2 new cycle shelters with 5 Sheffield cycle stands and scooter pods in each shelter for pupils
1 new cycle shelter with 10 Sheffield cycle stands for pupils
1 new cycle shelter with 5 Sheffield cycle stands for staff

Southcote Primary School

TRO - new school keep clear markings on Silchester road to protect new pedestrian entrance to school
2 new school car park entrance/exits on Silchester road to form new staff car park
Re-line marking of junction Silchester Road and Ross Road to accommodate new staff carpark entrance at junction
New cycle shelter with 5 Sheffield cycle stands for staff
New cycle shelter with scooter pod for 10 scooters for pupils
New pedestrian entrances into school on Silchester Road to reflect new access into school

New pedestrian entrance off highways footpath off Shepley Drive to improve pedestrian access into school

Alfred Sutton Primary School

A new entrance for vehicles in to the school car park.
New school keep clear marking required.

St Michaels Primary

2 pedestrian crossings on Dee Road outside St Michaels Primary and English Martyrs.
New pedestrian entrance into school on Dee Road to new reception playground
New pedestrian entrance into school on Dee Road for ks2 children
New cycle shelter with 5 Sheffield hoops
New cycle shelter with 10 Sheffield hoops

St Martin's Primary

Walking route signing
Relining of yellow 'keep clear'

Churchend Primary

New car park coming off Conwy Close
Pedestrian crossing over Conwy Close in front of school site
2 new cycle shelters
Tarmacing of footpath from Usk Road to Conwy Close
Need for bollard at end of Usk Road footpath to ensure use by pedestrians only

Hodsoll Road - new school

All new cycle shelters
Works on Hodsoll Road to create pedestrian crossings
New car park
Path along Victoria Park to provide off-street route for children coming from Oxford Road School as well as Civitas (new school) to the new pitch facilities.
New school keep clear marking required.



Appendix 2 Proposed area of 20mph speed limit (within red line)