

ENVIRONMENT STANDING SELECT COMMITTEE

29 June 2004

agenda item number

Report of The Director for Environment

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS PROGRESS REPORT - JUNE 2004

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members of the latest position statement in relation to progress with School Travel Plans in Nottinghamshire.

Background

2. At the meeting on the 16 February 2004, Environment Standing Select Committee were informed of the latest Government initiatives to give greater impetus to the development and implementation of School Travel Plans (STPs) across the Country. This report also sets out the principles of the Joint Officer/Member Steering Group which was due to be set up to monitor the development of School Travel Plans in Nottinghamshire over the next couple of years.

Staffing Resource

3. First of all, it is pleasing to report that from the allocated Government funding of £105,000 in each of 2004/05 and 2005/06, the Senior School Travel Plan Advisor has been operating in post since mid April 04. In addition, two of the three School Travel Plan Officers have been appointed and have been undergoing training from mid May 04. However, the third School Travel Plan Officer whilst initially accepting the contract offer eventually decided not to relocate to the area and as a result this post has still to be filled.

Schools with Existing STPs

4. As part of Government's investment in STPs, Members will recall that once schools have approved STPs in place, Government will provide them with capital funding to promote facilities on the school site to encourage travelling to school by cycling, walking or bus. The funding consists of a lump sum plus so much per pupil/student and equates to an average of £5,000 for Junior Schools and £10,000 for Secondary Schools.
5. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) guidance on how schools can appropriate this capital funding is given at Appendix A to this report.

6. In Nottinghamshire, 47 schools had an approved School Travel Plan by the 31 March 2004 and this information has been forwarded to DfT/DfES. Government has agreed to distribute the capital funding retrospectively to these schools and they can expect the funds to be with them very shortly. The full list of schools with approved STPs is given at Appendix B. They have been signed off as meeting DfT/DfES core criteria by the relevant Assistant Directors in Environment and Education.

Joint Steering Group

7. The first meeting of the Joint Steering Group was held on the 30 April 2004. As indicated in the previous report to Environment Select, two Headteachers have been invited onto the Group – Sarah Law (Jesse Gray) and Phil Crompton (Bramcote Park Comprehensive) both of whom are keen to play an active role. The meeting also agreed to co-opt the Senior STP Advisor onto the Group as it was considered that this post would be the main point of contact for Headteachers and Governors.
8. Whilst the main purpose of the Joint Steering Group is to monitor the general progress of STP introduction across the County, several other key tasks were agreed and the full remit of the Group is set out in Appendix C attached. The criteria for the prioritisation for the development of STPs was also approved and is given at Appendix D.
9. It was agreed that the Joint Steering Group would meet three times a year (one per school term) with the next meeting scheduled for November 2004. There will be a further report to the Environment Select Committee after this meeting has taken place, and this will deal with expected progress against the Strategic Plan Target for reducing car journeys to school.
10. Out of the Group's inaugural discussions, it became clear that School Governors were seen as key individuals to provide commitment and drive to STPs and it was considered that an appropriate Governor Training Event should be organised on STPs in Feb/March 2005. It was also agreed that the Regional School Travel Plan Advisor for the East Midlands would be invited to attend the Spring 2005 meeting of the Group.

PETER WEBSTER
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

T.SS.PRR/ 14 June 2004
Tprrkad1736.25 (Comm.Dir)

STP GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS - IDEAS FOR USING THE FUNDS

PERMITTED EXPENDITURE

1. Lockers.
2. Cycle Storage.
3. Scooter storage.
4. New access at school perimeter, *only if it is on school land*.
5. New path for pedestrians and/or cyclists in school grounds.
6. Wider paths in the school grounds.
7. Drainage.
8. Improved lighting in school grounds.
9. CCTV.
10. On site waiting area for pedestrians.
11. On site shelter for pedestrians (e.g. parents walking, pupils waiting for school buses in the school).
12. Bus turning circle in school grounds.
13. Guard-rail.
14. Traffic calming on school access roads in school grounds.
15. New signing.
16. Re-siting school fences to improve access.
17. Car drop zones/turning circles/car parks in school grounds, remote control entry system for a pedestrian gate.
18. Trees to 'eat' CO₂.
19. Providing a laminated cycle 'passport' with a swipe-in chip for the secure store.
20. Wet weather changing facilities, *but not items such as hairdryers unless incidental to larger project*.

NOT PERMITTED

1. Seed money to start off a breakfast club.
2. Cycle training courses when the instructors have to be paid and/or training of instructors.
3. Cycle repair workshop equipment.
4. Buying in expertise for STP-related issues.
5. Staff time, e.g., supervision at 'park and stride' drop-off points, attending STP working groups, input into STP activities such as car share clubs.
6. Extra responsibility points for teachers championing STPs.
7. Publicity and promotional resources.
8. Tabards for walking bus escorts/passengers.
9. Trolleys for (walking bus) bags.
10. Software – for mapping and surveys etc.
11. Subsidised bike lights/helmets/hi viz/locks for people cycling to school.
12. Markings to rationalise parking or improve safety of pupils in the vicinity of cars; *unless part of larger project*.
13. Active play equipment.

**LIST OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS
WITH APPROVED SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2004**

1. Abbey Road Primary, West Bridgford
2. Annie Holgate Infants and Nursery, Hucknall
3. Annie Holgate Junior, Hucknall
4. Bramcote Hills Primary,
5. Carnarvon Primary, Bingham
6. Carr Hill Primary and Nursery, Retford
7. Chuter Ede Primary, Balderton
8. Coddington C of E Primary and Nursery.
9. Crescent Primary and Nursery, Mansfield
10. Edwalton Primary.
11. Greythorn Primary, West Bridgford
12. Haddon Primary and Nursery, Carlton
13. Hallcroft Infant and Nursery, Retford
14. Harry Carlton Comprehensive, East Leake
15. Hetts Lane Infant and Nursery, Warsop
16. Heymann Primary, West Bridgford
17. High Oakham Primary, Mansfield
18. Holgate Comprehensive, Hucknall
19. Holly Primary, Forest Town
20. Holy Cross Catholic Primary, Hucknall
21. Holy Family Catholic Primary and Nursery, Worksop
22. Jesse Gray Primary, West Bridgford
23. John Blow Primary, Collingham
24. Kimberley Primary & Nursery.
25. King Edward Primary & Nursery, Mansfield
26. Kingston Park Primary & Nursery, Carlton-in-Lindrick
27. Ladybrook Primary, Mansfield
28. Lantern Lane Primary and Nursery, East Leake
29. Leen Mills Primary. Hucknall
30. Lowdham C of E Primary.
31. Mapplewells Primary & Nursery, Sutton-in-Ashfield
32. Meden School and Technology College, Warsop
33. Muskham Primary, North Muskham
34. National C of E Junior, Hucknall
35. Norbridge Primary & Nursery, Worksop
36. Pierrepont Gamston C of E Primary, West Bridgford
37. Prospect Hill Junior, Worksop
38. Prospect Hill Infant & Nursery, Worksop
39. Redlands Primary & Nursery, Worksop
40. St. Andrews C of E Primary & Nursery, Skegby
41. Sir Edmund Hillary Primary & Nursery, Worksop
42. St. Edmund Champion Catholic Primary, West Bridgford
43. St Edmund's C of E Primary & Nursery, Mansfield Woodhouse

**LIST OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOLS
WITH APPROVED SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2004**

- 44. Trowell C of E Primary.
- 45. West Bridgford Infants.
- 46. West Bridgford Junior.
- 47. Whyburn Primary, Hucknall

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS - JOINT STEERING GROUP

REMIT OF THE GROUP

- To monitor the general progress of School Travel Plan (STP) introduction.
- To review overall STP Completion Targets for the Authority.
- To monitor the effectiveness of STPs in terms of travel mode/changing perceptions/reducing congestion/improving safety.
- To ensure that all necessary data/documentation is provided to DfT/DfES including the Annual Report.
- To review and approve criteria for the prioritisation of the introduction of STPs.
- To ensure that all STPs meet DfT/DfES core requirements.
- To develop the better integration of School Transport into STPs.
- To assess whether Health and Safety Risk Assessments should be incorporated into the development of STPs.
- To ensure that there are appropriate linkages with health education and the “Healthy Schools” project.

SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS

Criteria for Prioritisation

- The level of interest within the school community.
- The severity of the travel problems (including road accident records) both at the school and within its vicinity.
- The potential for a significant reduction in the proportion of school journeys by car (including size of catchment area and public transport available).
- The willingness to co-operate with neighbouring schools.
- The level of commitment to integrate aspects of the Plan into the school curriculum; and
- The opportunity to build on existing “safer travel” infrastructure such as pedestrian/cycle routes or traffic calming.
- Planning Conditions have been set for alterations to or provision of new school accommodation.