

19 March 2018**Agenda Item: 10****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING AND
SKILLS****ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report seeks Committee approval to set up a cross party working group to explore ways to improve road safety for children particularly in and around schools. By working in partnership with all publicly funded schools, governors, parents and other stakeholders in Nottinghamshire, this working group will oversee the revision and development of new advice based on best practice that will be drawn from across the country. This project will be led by Councillor Boyd Elliott, Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee and will be supported by a further two Members from Children and Families Committee, a Member from Place Committee and a Member from Planning and Licensing.

Information

2. The number of pupils attending schools in Nottinghamshire has been increasing over the last five years. Whilst secondary schools have seen their cohorts decline, primary schools have witnessed rapid growth. The number of pupils attending primary schools was 11% higher in September 2017 than it was in 2011-2012.
3. This increase in the primary cohort in particular has clearly increased the volume of traffic on roads in and around schools at the start and end of the school day. Head teachers and school governors in particular regularly express concerns relating to driver behaviours and the challenges facing schools as more children are driven to school.
4. Over the medium term, Nottinghamshire County Council anticipates new schools being built as a result of new housing developments. Local authorities are required to undertake the necessary investigation at the planning stage to reduce the possibility of road accidents when new roads and/or schools are built.
5. Road safety is a key concern of parents and carers as well as Members of all political parties. This report therefore seeks the approval of Committee to set up a cross party working group, to be chaired by the Vice Chairman of the Children's and Young People's Committee and facilitated by senior officers. Key objectives of this working group will include the reviewing of all road accidents between 2012 and 2018 in Nottinghamshire and to explore ways of working with schools, parents and the wider community to improve road safety for all children on Nottinghamshire's roads, particularly in and around schools.

In addition, this working group would review the road safety advice offered to schools, particularly in relation to driving and parking in and around schools, and at the beginning and end of the school day.

6. Whilst the terms of reference will be finalised by the cross party working group, Members of the committee expect that this working group will undertake key analysis, to ensure that road safety is improved in and around schools. Whilst not exhaustive, key actions will include:
 - a. An analysis of accidents outside schools compared with the rest of the network and other local authorities to identify trends and factors to inform the work of the group.
 - b. Understanding the Council's Local Transport Plan and the current approach to safety outside schools in terms of the *Engineering, Enforcement, Planning* phase of new school place provision.
 - c. A review of approaches and best practice from across the UK including input from the Midlands Service Improvement Group and Road Safety Great Britain.
 - d. Evidence gathering and consultation with the community, schools and parents.
 - e. Consideration of the evidence and formulating recommendations based on the above.

Areas of specific review, subject to the approval of the cross party working group, will also include the following:

- **Engineering:** Current provision of crossing points both School Crossing Patrols and controlled crossing points.
- **Enforcement:** Use and design of suitable traffic regulation orders, enforcement frequency and approach including the use of the Camera Car and automated enforcement.
- **Planning:** Further exploration about on-site parking provision whether within schools or appropriate nearby sites to ease pressure outside schools, Highways layouts and traffic regulation.
- **Education:** Coordination with schools and involving the wider community in communication including digital and social media to include both road safety and travel planning advice relating to changes in modes of transport. Consideration of additional curriculum advice and guidance to Governors around school road safety policies and action plans will also be explored by the working group.

Other Options Considered

7. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. Road safety in and around schools is a particular concern of Members and the wider public. There is a need to review the current advice to schools and educational providers with regard to driving and parking in and around schools.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

10. There are no immediate financial implications. However, the working group may identify development projects, advice material or other communication and training for the community that will require to be costed. These costs will be incorporated into future working group reports to Members for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the creation of a Member led cross party working group to focus on improving road safety for children, particularly in and around schools, be agreed.
- 2) That in addition to the Vice Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee who will Chair the working party, the working party will comprise two additional Members identified by Children and Young People's Committee Members with a further two Members identified from the Communities and Place Committee.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 23/02/18)

11. The Children and Young People's Committee is the appropriate body to consider the contents of the report.

Financial Comments (SAS 01/03/18)

12. The financial implications of the report are contained within paragraph 10 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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