

Services currently offered/provided to facilitate road safety around schools

The County Council has taken this issue seriously for some time and consequently already provides an extensive programme of measures to help schools address road safety concerns around schools. The measures identified below have had the necessary impact as borne out by the very low number of accidents occurring outside schools, and on school journeys:

- **Advance school warning signs for motorists** – school warning signs are provided outside all schools in the county to make drivers aware that they are approaching a school and to drive appropriately
- **Advisory 20mph speed limits** – as there are very few accidents outside schools in Nottinghamshire and vehicle speeds are already low (less than 24mph) outside most schools, advisory 20mph speed limits have been introduced outside all schools in the County where it is feasible to do so. The advisory speed limits aim to encourage more people to walk and cycle to school by enhancing the warning signs for drivers, impressing upon them that they are expected to lower their speed outside all schools in Nottinghamshire, and improving the perception of safety around schools
- **Enforceable ‘School Keep Clear’ road markings** – traffic regulation orders have been introduced on all ‘school keep clear’ lines outside schools so that the pedestrians have a ‘clear’ place to cross outside the school that is not obscured by parked vehicles. This enables the Council to enforce the traffic regulation order that prohibits vehicles parking on them by issuing penalty charge notices to vehicle owners who park on them
- **Powers to strengthen enforcement regimes** – the County Council has existing powers to implement additional traffic regulation orders, such as introducing ‘School Keep Clear’ road markings on both sides of the road, which are considered when conditions concerning road widths are met; as well as alternatives to the camera enforcement car such as scooters or fixed cameras, which could be considered to address recognised road safety issues outside schools. The road safety and amenity (parking) impact on the wider surrounding area does, however, need to be included as part of any considerations before such measures are introduced
- **Camera enforcement cars** – the County Council introduced its first camera car in March 2016 to help enforce school ‘keep clear’ markings; and a second car became operational in May 2018. Anyone can request the car visit their local school through the Council’s website. Its first two years of operation have resulted in approximately 500 penalty charge notices per year being issued to people parking on the ‘keep clear’ markings
- **Road safety education** – road safety education and awareness programmes are developed annually to address the causes of reported road accidents that result in injuries to road users. Programmes that are targeted at school age children (or those that work at schools) are offered to schools free of charge. Many of these programmes are targeted at Year 6 pupils as they start to make more independent school journeys. Each school is contacted every term and offered tailored education programmes.
- **Engineering measures** – reported road traffic accidents resulting in casualties are monitored throughout the year (including those occurring outside schools or on school journeys) and a programme of schemes to address these casualties are developed and delivered annually. Between 1998 and 2015 the County Council had a specific funding

allocation to deliver a safer routes to schools programme, such as pedestrian crossings on routes to schools and school zones outside schools (and between 2001 and 2015 over £5m was spent on this programme). The funding allocation ended as it was considered that it would be better targeted at locations with a history of road traffic accidents as there are very few casualties on school journeys; also as there was no evidence to indicate that the schemes increased the number of pupils walking or cycling to school (and therefore reduced parking issues outside schools). It should, however, be noted that since the programme ended, in order to improve safety outside schools, over £200,000 has been invested in making the 'school keep clear' road markings enforceable; and almost £2m was allocated to introducing advisory 20mph speed limits outside schools in the County. Currently, Communities & Place Committee allocates £100,000 per year towards crossings on routes to schools which are identified through local County Council member requests

- **School bus services** – the County Council procures statutory and non-statutory school transport contracts to help pupils travel to school by bus, as well as home to school transport for specified pupils. The home to school transport legislation entitles free home to school transport for primary aged school children who live more than 2 miles from their preferred school; secondary aged school children who live more than 3 miles from their preferred school; and pupils from low income families who live 2-6 miles from their preferred school. In addition to this, where pupils live less than the above distances assisted travel may be offered on available bus services. The Council also administers the concessionary travel scheme as well as a number of incentivised discounted ticketing schemes for school pupils travelling regularly by bus
- **School crossing patrol service** – whilst there is no duty for the Council to provide a school crossing patrol, the County Council currently operates 90 sites across the County to support parental responsibility (but this number is subject to regular change). The service is provided for children aged 5-11 years, and sites are subject to meeting criteria based on the number of children crossing at a location and the number of vehicles passing through it
- **Planning advice on school design** – the County Council's planning services offer pre-application advice to designers/developers and these organisations are encouraged to use this service (this includes highways development control comments).