

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

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	3 NOVEMBER 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	SCHOOL EXPANSION AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	MARIAN MARSH	TEL:	0118 937 2451
JOB TITLE:	TRANSPORT PLANNER	E-MAIL:	marian.marsh@reading.gov.uk

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.

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 Reading's school expansion programme is making significant progress in response to population forecasts which will provide provision for 2,520 additional school places by 2021. The schools will each be taking their new admission number from Year R (reception), meaning

that the schools' population will incrementally increase as the new classes move up through the school.

- 4.2 Schools that are increasing their admission numbers are required as part of the planning application process to show how they intend to address both existing and predicted travel and traffic issues. This is done by producing a new School Travel Plan before they are granted occupation of the new buildings.
- 4.3 The Primary Schools which are expanding are and were required to submit a new Travel Plan as part of the planning application process are:
 - Alfred Sutton Primary
 - Churchend Primary
 - E P Collier Primary
 - Geoffrey Field Infant
 - Geoffrey Field Junior
 - New Town Primary
 - Ridgeway Primary
 - Southcote Primary
 - St. Martins Primary
 - St. Michaels Primary
- 4.4 All the schools listed above have submitted a Travel Plan with the exception of Ridgeway and EP Collier. Ridgeway has drafted a Travel Plan with a view to submitting well before the deadline of March 2016. EP Collier also has to submit its Travel Plan by March 2016 and Transport Planning and Education will be working with the school to complete the draft as soon as possible.
- 4.5 The programme also includes the creation of a new, two form entry (2FE) primary school called Civitas Academy in Hodsoll Road. They admit their first reception intake in September 2015. The Travel Plan was submitted last summer.
- 4.6 Following on from the workshop held in May 2015, a second Implementing Travel Plans workshop is proposed to encourage schools to implement the ideas in their Travel Plans. Case studies and examples would be available at the workshop to inspire Schools to come up with new and innovative ideas to encourage sustainable travel to school and to join the Modeshift Stars programme, funded by the DfT, to compete with other schools for Bronze, Silver and Gold recognition for their Travel Plans and for special national awards for innovative projects.
- 4.7 Educating the younger generation about these advantages and imbedding active travel behaviour will hopefully last a lifetime and

lead to more active and healthier lifestyles and a healthier environment with less congestion and pollution.

4.8 The Sub-Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

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.