

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

TO:	TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE		
DATE:	14 JUNE 2017	AGENDA ITEM:	13
TITLE:	SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS UPDATE		
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Sub-Committee on the progress made towards encouraging sustainable travel to schools through the development and implementation of School Travel Plans.

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 For the purpose of updating the committee, a table summarising the latest Travel Plans filed for every Primary and Secondary School in the borough is provided at the back of the report. A very small number of schools had not submitted a Travel Plan and a dialogue

with offers of support has commenced with each of those schools to ensure a Travel Plan is produced as soon as possible. All schools with a Travel Plan on RBC files that is over 3 years old have been contacted to explain we are seeking any updates which they may have omitted to send to RBC and to offer support in drafting new Travel Plans, so that the table can be updated in time for the committee meeting.

- 4.2 As reported in March 2014, the first priority to write and update Travel Plans was to focus on expanding schools. Expanding schools by their nature will generate more trips to school as pupil numbers increase. Therefore by producing new Travel Plans, the schools have been encouraged to carry out surveys of pupil and staff journeys; to analyse the data to come up with their own ideas to help reduce traffic problems in their neighbourhood, to break down barriers to walking and cycling to school and to encourage walking and cycling wherever possible.
- 4.3 A workshop was held in May 2015 to introduce a toolkit for the schools with resources and ideas, including talks from Bikeability and Bike It instructors. This workshop enabled the schools to draft and discuss their Travel Plans together and to seek 1:1 advice. It is intended to run further workshops as required where schools are encouraged to exchange ideas and receive new information on state of the art approaches and tried and tested ideas on implementing Travel Plans.
- 4.4 Once a Travel Plan has been submitted, each school is encouraged to establish a School Travel Steering Group comprising of staff, pupils, parents, governors and the local community. Reading Borough Council will continue to monitor and offer guidance to schools. In some cases, relevant proposals in the Travel Plan may be forwarded to other teams such as Parks, Highways and Streetcare, for issues regarding hedge cutting or road and footpath clearing. Public Health may also be consulted for advice on incorporating physical activity into peoples' everyday lives. Bus operators can be informed of any issues relating to public transport.
- 4.5 As a part of the development process of the expanding schools, a number of alterations, works and proposals have already been reported to January 2016 TM Sub-committee report including changes to waiting restrictions including alterations to school keep clear marking required at: EP Collier Primary School, Ridgeway Primary School, Southcote Primary School, Alfred Sutton Primary School and the new Civitas Primary School (Hodsoll Road) and a 20 mph zone around EP Collier Primary School.
- 4.6 In 2015, schools were reporting a growing interest in scooting to/from school and this had been encouraged through the Bike It programme.

Schools are requesting Scooterpods to allow children to park their scooters.

- 4.7 A pilot study for reception children was successfully conducted in 2015/16 at Civitas School, building on the successes of Beat the Street. Free resources and experience from the SWITCH EU project (Reading was a Follower City) were used including leaderboards, games, in school competitions and the use of pedometers to challenge pupils to keep travelling actively and sustainably. Most successful was a teddy and diary taken home on a rota basis to record how each child walked with the teddy instead of taking the car and this raised greater awareness and enthusiasm amongst parents and carers than what is achievable through a letter.
- 4.8 This 'teddy and diary' idea is being promoted to schools on a 1:1 basis and there is potential for other schools to roll out this simple, inexpensive approach to reception age children and then use these children to become ambassadors and encourage the next year's intake to try walking more.
- 4.9 The next priority will be to encourage and provide information to the schools with the oldest, outdated Travel Plans to renew these as soon as possible. The intention is to turn to Secondary schools also and to potentially use the BetterPoints Smartphone App which was developed through the LSTF Challenge fund and currently used in the BikeSmart programme to encourage cycling, bus and walking amongst the year 9-11 age groups.

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.

6.2 Once the Travel Plans are submitted, individual Schools are encouraged to post their Travel Plan and related news on their own websites also.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no legal implications.

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 Development and implementation of School Travel Plans initiatives aims to improve specifically the walking and cycling experience of journeys to and from school for children, parents and carers and staff, including groups with protected characteristics. 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 The more the schools in Reading are developing and implementing measures in their School Travel Plans, the greater the cumulative effect there will be across the borough. This will reduce the reliance on and impact of cars on the school journey; in turn leading to less traffic and congestion in the town around the 'school run' period.

8.4 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.

8.5 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 air pollution.

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, January 2016, March 2016, June 2016.

Reading Borough Council - School Travel Plan Information - May 2017

Ref No.	School Name	Website	Date of Travel Plan filed with RBC (if red, not filed)	Travel Plan on School Website	Travel Information on Website	Comments
1	Alfred Sutton Primary	http://www.alfredsuttonprimary.co.uk/	2015	No	No	
2	All Saints Church of England Aided Infant	http://www.allsaints.reading.sch.uk/	2002	No	No	School contacted Transport Planning for advice on updating Travel Plan (June 17)
40	All Saints Junior	http://www.allsaintsjuniorschoolreading.co.uk/	2013	No	No	
3	Battle Academy	http://www.netacademies.net/battle/	2005	No	No	School contacted Transport Planning for advice on updating Travel Plan (June 17)
4	Caversham Park Primary	http://www.cavershamparkprimaryschool.co.uk/	2007	No	No	School contacted Transport Planning for advice on updating Travel Plan (June 17)
5	Caversham Primary	http://www.cavershamprimary.org/	2007	No	No	School contacted Transport Planning for advice on updating Travel Plan (June 17)
6	Christ The King Catholic Primary	http://www.christthekingreading.co.uk/	2002	No	No	
7	Churchend Primary Academy	http://www.churchendacademy.com/	2015	No	No	The school has requested a meeting to discuss Travel Plan with RBC officer and ward councillors.
41	Civitas Academy	http://civitasacademy.co.uk/	2016	No	No	

8	Coley Primary	http://www.coleyprimary.reading.sch.uk/	2015	No	No	
39	Cranbury College	http://www.cranburycollege.reading.sch.uk/	2008	No	No	

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Ref No.	School Name	Website	Date of Travel Plan filed with RBC (if red, not filed)	Travel Plan on School Website	Travel Information on Website	Comments
11	EP Collier Primary	http://www.epcollier.reading.sch.uk/	2016	Yes	Yes	Parking information only http://www.epcollier.reading.sch.uk/parking/
9	Emmer Green Primary	https://www.emmergreenprimary.com/	2001	No	No	
10	English Martyrs' Catholic Primary	http://www.englishmartyrs.reading.sch.uk/	2001	No	No	
12	Geoffrey Field Infant	http://www.geoffreyfieldinfant.co.uk/	2015	No	No	
13	Geoffrey Field Junior	http://www.geoffreyfieldjuniorschool.co.uk/	2015	No	No	
15	Katesgrove Primary	http://www.katesgroveprimaryschool.co.uk/	2008	No	No	
16	Manor Primary	http://manorprimary.net/	2004	No	No	
35	Meadow Park Academy	http://www.meadowparkacademy.org/	-	No	No	First draft of Travel Plan for discussion received by Transport Planning May 17
17	Micklands Primary	http://www.micklands.reading.sch.uk/	2005	No	No	
18	Moorlands Primary	http://moorlandsprimaryschoolblog.net/	2004	No	No	
19	New Christ Church of England (VA) Primary	http://www.thelifecloud.net/schools/NewChristChurchPrimarySchool	2007	No	No	
20	New Town Primary	http://www.newtown.reading.sch.uk/	2016	No	No	

21	Oxford Road Community	http://oxfordroad.reading.sch.uk/	2004	No	No	
22	Park Lane Primary (Infant Dept)	https://parklaneblogs.net/	2007	No	No	

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23	Park Lane Primary (Junior Dept)	https://parklaneblogs.net/	2007	No	No	
24	Ranikhet Primary	http://www.ranikhetacademy.co.uk/	2005	No	No	
25	Redlands Primary	http://www.redlandsschool.co.uk/	2017	No	No	1:1 held March 17 to discuss updating Travel Plan which was submitted May 2017.
26	Southcote Primary	http://southcoteprimary.co.uk/	2015	No	No	
27	St Anne's Catholic Primary	http://www.st-annes.reading.sch.uk/	2004	No	No	
28	St John's CE Primary	http://www.stjohns.reading.sch.uk	2006	No	No	School contacted Transport Planning for advice on updating Travel Plan (June 17)
29	St Martin's Catholic Primary	http://www.stmartinscaversham.co.uk/	2007	No	No	
30	St Mary and All Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary	http://www.st-maryallsaints.reading.sch.uk/	2004	No	No	
21	St Michael's Primary	http://www.stmichaels.reading.sch.uk/	2015	No	No	
32	Thameside Primary	http://www.thamesideprimary.co.uk	2015	No	No	

42	The Heights Primary	http://www.theheightsprimary.co.uk/	-	No	No	The School is working on a Travel Plan (June 2017). Note the school is currently located in a temporary location
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33	The Hill Primary	http://www.thelifecLOUD.net/schools/thehillprimaryschool	2015	No	No	
14	The Palmer Primary Academy	http://www.thepalmeracademy.com/	2009	No	No	
34	The Ridgeway Primary	http://www.theridgewayprimary.net/	2015	No	No	
37	Whitley Park Primary and Nursery	http://www.whitleyparkprimaryschool.co.uk/	2004	No	No	School contacted Transport Planning for advice on updating Travel Plan (June 17)
38	Wilson Primary	http://www.wilsonprimary.co.uk/	2006	No	No	
1	Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School	http://www.hughfaringdon.org/	2003	No	No	
2	Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre	http://www.highdown.reading.sch.uk/	2007	No	No	
3	John Madejski Academy	http://www.johnmadejskiacademy.co.uk/	-	No	No	Transport Planning has spoken to the school office (May 2017) and the school is going to contact RBC shortly to discuss Travel Plan.
4	Kendrick School	http://www.kendrick.reading.sch.uk/	2006	No	No	

5	Maiden Erlegh School in Reading	http://maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/	-	No	Yes	http://maidenerleghschoolreading.co.uk/about-us/travelling-to-school/ Transport Planning has spoken to the school office (May 2017) and they are to get in touch shortly regarding to discuss Travel Plan.
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Ref No.	School Name	Website	Date of Travel Plan filed with RBC (if red, not filed)	Travel Plan on School Website	Travel Information on Website	Comments
6	Prospect Secondary School	http://www.prospect.reading.sch.uk/	2001	No	No	
7	Reading Girls' School	http://www.readinggirls.school.co.uk/	2008	No	No	School has submitted a revised Travel Plan to Transport Planning for comment and advice. June 2017
8	Reading School	http://www.reading-school.co.uk/	2006	No	No	
9	The WREN School	http://www.wrenschoo.org/	2015	No	No	School is updating/reviewing Travel Plan (May 2017)
10	UTC Reading	http://www.utcreading.co.uk	-	No	No	School has contacted Transport Planning to discuss drafting a Travel Plan (May 2017). It has a Travel Policy dated 2014 which is being reviewed.

