

Report to the Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation)

Date: 28 March 2017

Subject: Sustainable Education Travel Strategy

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a general duty on Local Authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport. The duty applies to all children and young people of compulsory school age who travel to receive education or training in Leeds. To satisfy the duty, local authorities must produce a strategy to develop sustainable travel and transport infrastructure so that the travel and transport needs of children and young people in Leeds are best catered for.
2. In 2008 the Council produced the first Sustainable Education Travel Strategy (SETS), this set out a clear action plan of how the Council would discharge its statutory duty to promote sustainable travel to schools and other centres of learning.
3. The 2008 SETS is now out of date and a revised strategy has been developed to reflect the changing environment surrounding education provision in Leeds and the travel and transport needs of children and young people.

Recommendations

4. The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to note and endorse the revised Sustainable Education Travel Strategy and give authority for publication.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks Highways Board approval for the updated Sustainable Education Travel Strategy 2017 to be published.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The DfE home to school guidance recommends local authorities should in large, base their assessment of children and young people's travel and transport needs on the data provided in a school or college travel plan.
- 2.2 School travel plans are the key tool used for discharging the statutory duty for planning and promoting sustainable travel in all schools and colleges in Leeds. Travel plans provide the means within schools to provide direction through parent, pupil and community consultation, which identifies barriers and provides the school with a clear action plan for the promotion of sustainable travel. This approach has contributed to the reduction in the number of children travelling to school by car in Leeds from 28.4% in 2007 to 25.8% in 2016.
- 2.3 School travel plans now exist for all state schools and academies of Leeds, and for the majority of colleges who admit young people between the ages of 14 and 19 years. Travel plans identify barriers to sustainable travel and provide details of school facilities and local infrastructure which enables sustainable travel to school.
- 2.4 New and expanding schools (including free schools) that require planning approval, produce travel plans in accordance with the Travel Plans supplementary planning document (SPD) and appropriate infrastructure and facilities are installed to enable delivery of the travel plan.
- 2.5 Travel plans that are required to support planning applications are now monitored through an electronic travel planning system - Modeshift Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools (STARS) which also recognises achievements through national accreditation. All schools can voluntarily sign up to STARS with 103 schools currently registered in Leeds and 28 of those schools achieving an accreditation.
- 2.6 A variety of initiatives to support the delivery of school travel plans have been developed. Initiatives such as Walkshire, Go green and scoot to school programmes are regularly delivered in schools across the city.
- 2.7 Travel plan measures are complemented with a full range of road safety education and training in schools to enable safe walking, scooting and cycling to school.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Sustainable Education Travel Strategy 2008 is out of date and needs to be revised to reflect the changing environment surrounding travel and transportation to education establishments in Leeds.

3.2 This section of the report details the main statutory duties on the Authority in respect of promoting sustainable travel to schools. The four main elements to the duty are;

- An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children, and young people within the authorities area
- An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between the schools/institutions
- A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority so that the travel and transport needs of children and young people are better catered for
- The promotion of sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to and from and between schools/institutions

3.3 The duty applies to all children and young people of compulsory school age under 18 years of age. It also considers the implications of extended schools and education and training for the 14 -19 age group.

3.4 The Sustainable Education Travel Strategy is the Councils response to the requirements of the EIA 2006. The strategy aims to increase the number of children and young people walking, cycling and using public transport to access schools and Further Education (FE) establishments. It will enable pupils, parents and carers to access sustainable travel information for schools and FE establishments, and help to create an environment where choosing a sustainable means of travel becomes the natural choice for the journey to schools and colleges.

3.5 Strategy progress will be monitored and evaluated on an annual basis to inform the review of the document which will be conducted each year in tandem with the strategy update.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.2 The executive member for regeneration, transport and planning has been consulted on the revised Sustainable Education Travel strategy and approved the proposal 23rd March 2017.

4.3 The original strategy was published on the Council's 'Talking Point' consultation website on 8th July 2008. At the same time the strategy was sent to each named stakeholder in the strategy (internal and external), and to all Council Members inviting detailed comment. The public consultation ran until 15th August 2008 and the strategy went to Executive Board meeting on 2nd September 2008.

4.4 Since 2008 a working and steering group was formed to monitor and evaluate the progress of the strategy. Annual updates have been produced (until 2013) and placed on the Councils website.

4.5 The revised strategy has been developed in partnership with the SETS steering group, which comprises of internal and external partners including Public Health, WYCA, Childrens Services and Planning Service.

4.6 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.6.1 A screening document has been prepared and an independent impact assessment is not required for the approvals requested.

4.6.2 School travel plans are beneficial to school age children and young people in terms of reducing car use and increasing personal mobility, increasing fitness levels, improved road safety knowledge, better learning environment and mentality.

4.7 Council policies and City Priorities

4.7.1 The Vision for Leeds (2011 - 2030) sets out the community strategy and aims for Leeds to be the best city in the UK by 2030. It includes a commitment to create a sustainable travel culture, increase the investment in walking and cycling and lower carbon emissions.

4.7.2 The City Council has a key ambition for Leeds to be a Child Friendly City - by creating places and services where children and young people feel safe, welcome, involved and informed about what goes on around them. In taking this initiative forward, 12 'wishes' have been developed for a more child friendly Leeds. These include, travel, places and spaces, and a healthy lifestyle.

4.8 Resources and value for money

4.8.1 The revision of the Sustainable Education Travel Strategy has no additional resource or financial implications.

4.9 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.9.1 Publication of the revised SETS ensures that the council continues to meet its statutory obligations under the EIA 2006.

4.10 Risk Management

4.10.1 None

5 Conclusions

5.1 The revised Sustainable Education Travel Strategy aims to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel to all schools and further education colleges in Leeds which will encourage a healthier and active lifestyle for children and young people, reduce congestion on the local highway network and improve air quality.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Chief Officer (Highways and Transportation) is requested to note and endorse the revised Sustainable Education Travel Strategy and give authority for publication.

7 Background documents ¹

- 7.1 Sustainable Education Travel Strategy 2017
- 7.2 Sustainable Education Travel Strategy 2008

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works