

Decision Maker: Environment Portfolio Holder

**For Pre-decision scrutiny by the Environment PDS
Committee on**

Date: 15th November 2011

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: **CROSSINGS AND SAFETY MEASURES NEAR SCHOOLS**

Contact Officer: Louise French, Team Leader, School Travel Team
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies

Ward: All wards

1. Reason for report

In February 2011 the Council decided to withdraw funding for the school crossing patrol service to make an annual saving of £233,000. In some cases physical measures may be desirable outside schools to facilitate safe crossing by pupils. In light of the tight timescale to implement measures, authority is sought to delegate such measures to the Director of Environmental Services.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Portfolio Holder:

- 2.1 **Delegates authority to the Director of Environmental Services to approve installation of physical measures, such as a zebra crossing, near to schools where such measures are deemed necessary, after consultation with Ward Members and the Portfolio Holder. This will apply to measures costing less than £25,000 and only until 31st July 2012.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy.
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment.
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated cost Up to £250k
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring cost. Energy and maintenance costs for electronic signage ~ £2k
 3. Budget head/performance centre: TfL LIP funding for Pedestrian Crossings and Minor Walking Schemes 2011/12, along with School Travel Planning Activities 2011/12 and Local Transport Fund 2011/12
 4. Total current budget for this head: £90k, with an uncommitted balance of £27k, £285k with an uncommitted balance of £178k, and £100k with an uncommitted balance of £95k respectively, plus £51k revenue budget
 5. Source of funding: Capital funding from TfL. Running/maintenance costs annual budget for Minor Traffic Management Schemes
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 150
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-statutory - Government guidance.
 2. Call-in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Pupils at affected schools, plus passing motorists who will receive the benefits of less congestion.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? No.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillors will be consulted on each proposal as it is developed.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 In February 2011 the Council's Executive Committee decided to withdraw funding for the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) service to make an annual saving of £233k.
- 3.2 There are 88 primary schools across the Borough and there are currently 48 SCP sites serving 47 of these primary schools. Each school crossing patrol costs the Council just over £5k per annum.
- 3.3 Following the announcement by the Council's Executive Committee the Road Safety Unit carried out an audit across all 48 sites in the Borough to determine the number of pupils assisted by the school crossing patrols. A count was undertaken at each crossing patrol site, both morning and afternoon, on two separate occasions during January 2011 and March 2011. Officers counted the number of unaccompanied children and accompanied children (children using the crossing patrol with parents/carers).
- 3.4 The results listed below show the *highest* number of unaccompanied children recorded using the sites.

School	Location	Number of pupils assisted per day (unaccompanied)
Red Hill Primary	Red Hill (<i>On zebra crossing</i>)	62
Hayes Primary	Hayes Street	48
Perry Hall Primary	Perry Hall Road	47
Biggin Hill Primary	Old Tye Ave	46
Alexandra Junior	Cator Road	42
Tubbenden Primary	Tubbenden Lane/Tile Farm Rd	32
Highfield Junior	South Hill Rd	30
St Georges Primary	Tylney Road/ Nightingale Lane	29
Valley Primary	Beckenham Lane	29
Green Street Green Primary	Worlds End Lane	25
Raglan Primary	Southlands Road	24
Leesons Primary	Chipperfield Road	20
Churchfields Primary	Churchfield's Road/Clement Rd	19
Oaklands Primary	Norheads Lane	19
Farnborough Primary	Farnborough Hill/Tubbenden Lane	18
St Christopher's	Bromley Road	17
St Philomena's RC Primary	Chelsfield Road/Derry Downs	17
Warren Road Primary	Warren Rd / Sevenoaks Rd	16
Scotts Park Primary	Plaistow Lane/Orchard Road	15
St James RC Primary	Southborough Lane (<i>uses a zebra crossing</i>)	15
Grays Farm Primary	Sevenoaks Way (<i>on a pelican crossing</i>)	14
Leesons Primary	Leesons Hill/Silverdale Rd	14
Marian Vian Primary	Upper Elmers End Road	14
St Marks Primary	Westmoreland Road	13
Crofton Junior	Towncourt Lane/ Jersey Drive	12
Parish Primary	London Lane	12
St Mary's RC Primary	Foxgrove Road	12
Midfield Primary	Midfield Way	11
St Marks Primary	Queen Anne Avenue	11
Worsley Bridge Junior	Southend Rd/ Brackley Rd	11
Crofton Infant	Crofton Lane/ Towncourt Lane	10
Stewart Fleming Primary	Marlow Road	10
Burnt Ash Primary	Southover Rd /Rangefield Rd	9
Darrick Wood Infant & Junior	Starts Hill Road	9

School		
Royston Primary	High Street, Penge	9
Alexandra Infants	Kent House Road	8
Bickley Park School	Page Heath Lane	7
Oak Lodge Primary	Wickham Road	7
St Georges Primary	Tylney Road/ Canon Rd	7
Unicorn Primary	South Eden Park Road	6
Highfield Infants	Hayes Lane	5
Blenheim Primary	Eldred Drive	4
Hawes Down Infant & Junior School	Glebe Way	4
Poverest Primary	Poverest Road	4
Princes Plain Primary	Magpie Hall Lane	4
Mottingham Primary	Dunkery Road	3
Southborough Primary	Southborough Lane (On a zebra crossing)	2
Bishop Challoner	Bromley Road	0

- 3.5 Bromley's practice has been to only install school crossing patrols at sites that meet a PV² value (a combined pedestrian and vehicle flow calculation), with a minimum of 15 children crossing to make the site worth having. Where it is identified that usage has fallen below 15 unaccompanied children, consideration would have been given to withdrawing the SCP at that location.
- 3.6 The above results show that since some school crossing patrols were introduced usage numbers have dropped and many sites do not now meet the 15 unaccompanied children threshold.
- 3.7 In June 2011 all schools were sent a letter outlining the withdrawal of funds for the school crossing patrols and suggesting ways the Council can help schools that wish to find a way to replace the facility – either with an alternatively funded Patrol or with physical/engineering measures.
- 3.8 Since then schools with more than 15 unaccompanied children using the site have been prioritised for visits by the School Travel Team. A School Travel Officer along with a Traffic Engineer have since met with a number of schools to discuss the removal of this service and opportunities for alternative funding i.e. sponsorship / PTA fundraising, a volunteer service or appropriate engineering measures. Further meetings will continue this term.
- 3.9 Possible measures include zebra crossings, part-time 20mph limits, signs with coloured road surfaces, vehicle activated signs or part-time electronic warning signs. The cost of such measures varies from a few hundred pounds to about £20k for a zebra crossing.
- 3.10 If and when suitable measures are proposed and supported by a school, Ward Members and the Portfolio Holder, any scheme costing over £5k but less than £25k would normally be reported to the Environment Portfolio Holder for approval. However, as these measures need to be in place, as much as is possible, by the end of March, it is proposed that the Director of Environmental Services decides on the introduction of any engineering measures to replace Patrols, provided that the cost of any scheme does not exceed £25k. Ward Members and the Portfolio Holder will still be consulted before the Director approves installation. This delegated authority would only extend until 31st July 2012.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In "Building a Better Bromley 2020 Vision – Quality Environment", two stated issues to be tackled are: (i) Promoting safe motoring; and (ii) Improving the road network for all users.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The estimated cost of schemes could be up to £250k and will be funded from the TfL LIP funding for Pedestrian Crossings and Minor Walking Schemes 2011/12, which has an uncommitted balance of £27k, along with School Travel Planning Activities, which has an uncommitted balance of £178k, and the Local Transport Fund which has an uncommitted balance of £95k.
- 5.2 The estimated on-going annual revenue maintenance costs of £2k will be funded from the budget for minor traffic management schemes.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Traffic Management Orders may be required under Section 9 of the Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Letters sent to schools