



Notice of meeting of

Scrutiny Management Committee

To: Councillors Healey (Chair), Funnell (Vice-Chair), Orrell, Scott, Simpson-Laing, Taylor, R Watson and Waudby

Date: Monday, 15 March 2010

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: The Guildhall

AGENDA

1. **Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, Members will be invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

2. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 4)

To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010.

3. **Public Participation**

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered their wish to speak regarding an item on the agenda or an issue within the Committee's remit can do so. The deadline for registering is **5:00 pm on Friday 12 March 2010**.

4. **Referral from Economic and City Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee - School Travel Plans and Safe Routes to School** (Pages 5 - 44)

This report asks the committee to consider forming a crosscutting Joint Scrutiny Task Group to look at issues in respect of school travel plans and safe routes to school.

5. Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972

Democracy Officer:

Name: Jayne Carr

Contact details:

- Telephone – (01904) 552030
- E-mail – jayne.carr@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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If you would, you will need to:

- register by contacting the Democracy Officer (whose name and contact details can be found on the agenda for the meeting) **no later than 5.00 pm** on the last working day before the meeting;
- ensure that what you want to say speak relates to an item of business on the agenda or an issue which the committee has power to consider (speak to the Democracy Officer for advice on this);
- find out about the rules for public speaking from the Democracy Officer.

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Further information about what's being discussed at this meeting

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If you have any further access requirements such as parking close-by or a sign language interpreter then please let us know. Contact the Democracy Officer whose name and contact details are given on the order of business for the meeting.

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Holding the Executive to Account

The majority of councillors are not appointed to the Executive (40 out of 47). Any 3 non-Executive councillors can 'call-in' an item of business from a published Executive (or Executive Member Decision Session) agenda. The Executive will still discuss the 'called in' business on the published date and will set out its views for consideration by a specially convened Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC). That SMC meeting will then make its recommendations to the next scheduled Executive meeting in the following week, where a final decision on the 'called-in' business will be made.

Scrutiny Committees

The purpose of all scrutiny and ad-hoc scrutiny committees appointed by the Council is to:

- Monitor the performance and effectiveness of services;
- Review existing policies and assist in the development of new ones, as necessary; and
- Monitor best value continuous service improvement plans

Who Gets Agenda and Reports for our Meetings?

- Councillors get copies of all agenda and reports for the committees to which they are appointed by the Council;
- Relevant Council Officers get copies of relevant agenda and reports for the committees which they report to;
- Public libraries get copies of **all** public agenda/reports.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DATE	1 FEBRUARY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HEALEY (CHAIR), FUNNELL (VICE-CHAIR), ORRELL, SCOTT, SIMPSON-LAING, TAYLOR, R WATSON, WAUDBY AND MERRETT

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal or prejudicial interests they might have in the business on the agenda. Councillors Waudby and Funnell declared personal non-prejudicial interests in agenda item 4 "Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee – Final Report" (minute 18 refers) as holders of an older person's bus pass. Councillor Simpson-Laing declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 "Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee – Final Report" (minute 18 refers) as a member of the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

18. TRAFFIC CONGESTION AD HOC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - FINAL REPORT

Members received a report that presented the final report of the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee regarding their review on traffic congestion in York. Copies of the "Tackling Traffic Congestion in York" consultation questionnaire were tabled for information.

Councillor Merrett, Chair of the Committee, went through the key issues in the report. It was noted that the recommendations had been split into two parts – those that in the Committee's view needed to be implemented in the short term and included in LTP3, and those that made up a long term strategic response to tackling congestion from LTP3 onwards. Councillor Merrett highlighted the two important short to medium term priorities as being a review of local bus services and the implementation of smart choice travel initiatives. It was noted that this would require a revenue commitment.

Consideration was given to each of the recommendations detailed in the report.

In respect of recommendation (v), it was agreed that there was a need to look at how travel plans, including the Council's own plan, could be made more effective and robust.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the contents of the final reports and its annexes be noted.
- (ii) That the recommendations in the report be supported in principle, whilst it being acknowledged that some of the recommendations had cost implications.
- (iii) That thanks be recorded to the Traffic Congestion Ad Hoc Scrutiny Committee for the work that they had carried out during the review.

REASON: To inform the Executive's consideration of the final report.

19. URGENT BUSINESS - SCRUTINY REVIEW SUPPORT BUDGET

Members received a report that summarised the position to date on expenditure against the budget available specifically for supporting scrutiny reviews in 2009/10. It also sought Members' views on the available budget for 2010/11, with a view to making a recommendation to the Council as part of the budget setting process. The Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee had agreed to take this report as an urgent item in view of the timescales involved.

Concerns were expressed regarding the budget proposal to delete the vacant scrutiny assistant post. Comments were put forward that, in view of the developments in the scrutiny process, there was a need for it to be better resourced.

- RESOLVED: (i) That the current budget position for 2009/10 be noted.
- (ii) That the amount from the budget allocated directly to scrutiny committees should remain at £500 initially, subject to requests for more funds from those committees being made to SMC if necessary.
- (iii) That SMC were disappointed to note the proposal to delete the scrutiny assistant post.

REASON: To enable Council to set an informed scrutiny review support budget for the 2010/11 financial year.

Councillor P Healey, Chair
[The meeting started at 5.00 pm and finished at 6.20 pm].



Scrutiny Management Committee

15th March 2010

Report of the Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Referral from Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee – School Travel Plans & Safe Routes to School

Summary

1. This report asks the Committee to consider forming a crosscutting Joint Scrutiny Task Group to look at the issues addressed in the Topic Registration Form attached at Annex A to this report.

Background

2. At a meeting of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8th December 2010 Members considered a feasibility report regarding 'Safe Travel to School' which had been submitted by Councillor James Alexander. A copy of the original Topic Registration Form is attached at Annex A to this report.
3. Many of the comments provided for the original feasibility report (8th December 2009) raised concerns regarding the extent of the proposed topic and suggested that the topic should be more clearly defined and concentrated around the Safe Routes to School Programme and School Travel Plans. In light of this a presentation was organised for the Committee on 22nd February 2010 to identify a possible focus for a review. A copy of the presentation is attached at Annex B to this report.

Outcome of the meeting on 22nd February 2010

4. On consideration of the presentation Members identified the following as a focus for a possible review:

Funding

- Funding of the School Travel Co-ordinator Post after April 2011

Review of Travel Plans

- What factors make a successful School Travel Plan, what difference do School Travel Plans make & how could this influence LTP3
- How often are School Travel Plans reviewed/renewed and is there a policy around this

- Best Practice (are there any outstandingly good School Travel Plans & how can the successful factors within them be shared)
- How can the profile of School Travel Plans be raised

Health

- How can an increased use of School Travel Plans improve health benefits across the city

Parking, Congestion & Safety

- How can this be improved near schools

5. A draft copy of the minute from the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22nd February 2010 is attached at Annex C for reference.

Consultation

6. The presentation at Annex B to this report was prepared and presented by the Principal Transport Planner (Operations), the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator and the Transport and Safety Engineer. The earlier feasibility study (dated 8th December 2009) included consultation comments from the Executive Member for City Strategy, the Executive Member for Children's Services, the Assistant Director (Development & Transport), the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator and the School Crossing Patrol Team.

Options

7. Members have the option to consider whether or not to form a crosscutting Joint Scrutiny Task Group.

Analysis

8. The Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee welcomed the presentation they received at their meeting on 22nd February 2010. After due consideration and discussion of the information presented the Committee felt that the issues raised were crosscutting with many outside their remit. They therefore agreed to refer the matter to the Scrutiny Management Committee (SMC) to investigate the possibility of setting up a crosscutting joint Scrutiny Committee/Task Group to undertake a review.
9. It is important to note that whilst the City of York Council has an obligation to ensure that all schools have a School Travel Plan there is no obligation on the school to actually have one. Once a School Travel Plan has been established it is owned by the individual school. Members may therefore want to take into consideration how they could best add value if they were to include School Travel Plans in any review. One way of doing this would be to focus on factors that make an effective and sustainable Travel Plan. This

would then allow the School Travel Plan Co-ordinators to include best practice into any guidance they give schools.

10. The information in paragraph 4 of this report highlights some of the main points that could be addressed in a review. It is advised that membership of any crosscutting Joint Scrutiny Task Group be loosely politically proportionate as follows:

- 2 Labour
- 2 Liberal Democrat
- 1 Conservative
- 1 Green

11. The allocation from each current Scrutiny Committee to be as follows:

- (2) Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- (1) Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- (1) Learning & Culture Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- (2) Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee

12. It is suggested that the Chair be a representative of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

13. Should SMC agree to form a Task Group their first meeting would need to be set aside for the preparation of a remit and scope for the review, this would then need to be approved by SMC prior to commencement.

14. Officers within Democratic Services would liaise with the Group Secretaries for nominations to the Task Group.

Corporate Strategy 2009/2012

15. The contents of this report and the focus of any review that may be undertaken are linked with the 'Safer City' element of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

16. **Financial** – There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report, however should Members of the Committee choose to progress this topic to review implications may arise. There is a small amount of funding in the scrutiny budget to enable reviews to take place.

17. **Legal** – There are no known legal implications associated with the recommendations within this report however should this topic be progressed to review implications may arise.

18. **Human Resources** – There are no known Human Resources implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

19. There are no known equalities, crime & disorder, information technology or property implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

Risk Management

20. In compliance with the Council's risk management policy there are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

Recommendations

21. Members are asked to consider whether they wish to set up a crosscutting Joint Scrutiny Task Group and if so, to approve the proposed composition as set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of this report.

Reason: In order to address the concerns raised in the Topic Registration Form at Annex A to this report and the discussions of the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee at their meeting on 22nd February 2010.

Contact Details

Author:

Tracy Wallis
Scrutiny Officer
Scrutiny Services
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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Alison Lowton
Interim Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic
Services
Tel: 01904 551004

Report Approved

Date 05.03.2010

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Feasibility Report – 8th December 2009

Annexes

- Annex A** Topic Registration Form
- Annex B** Presentation on School Travel Plans & Safe Routes to School
- Annex C** Draft copy of the minute from the Economic & City Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22nd February 2010



Scrutiny Topic Registration Form

*** Proposed topic:** City of York Council scrutinises the physical access to schools across the city with specific reference to the school's travel plans, the speed of traffic, illegal parking, effectiveness of crossings and surface of roads and pavements.

*** Councillor registering the topic** Councillor James Alexander

Submitted due to an unresolved 'Cllr Call for Action' enquiry

Please complete this section as thoroughly as you can. The information provided will help Scrutiny Officers and Scrutiny Members to assess the following key elements to the success of any scrutiny review:

How a review should best be undertaken given the subject

Who needs to be involved

What should be looked at

By when it should be achieved; and

Why we are doing it?

Please describe how the proposed topic fits with 3 of the eligibility criteria attached.

	Yes ?	Policy Development & Review	Service Improvement & Delivery	Accountability of Executive Decisions
Public Interest (ie. in terms of both proposals being in the public interest and resident perceptions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under Performance / Service Dissatisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In keeping with corporate priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Level of Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service Efficiency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National/local/regional significance e.g. A central government priority area, concerns joint working arrangements at a local 'York' or wider regional context	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*** Set out briefly the purpose of any scrutiny review of your proposed topic. What do you think it should achieve?**

Annex A

Many parents are contacting me regarding the speed of traffic near schools in Holgate, illegal parking near schools causing obstructions and children having to walk in the road and almost be hit by motorists. Sometimes the motorists who are illegally parking are other parents on the school run. Parental reports also include poor signage near schools, poor road surface and so on. While speaking to other elected members it became clear that this was not just a catalogue of problems in Holgate.

The review should lead to a course of action that permits free and safe travel to and from schools.

*** Please explain briefly what you think any scrutiny review of your proposed topic should cover.**

- Look more closely at school's travel plans with perhaps recommendations for changes
- Look at priority of road & footpath resurfacing & maintenance & possible improvements
- Perhaps introduce bollards at certain entrances
- Possibly introduce speed limits near schools etc.
- Parking near schools, illegal parking near schools
- Increased traffic signage near schools
- Teachers supervising outside schools as children arrive

I would like the scrutiny committee to look at a few schools of differing sizes across the authority. Some of these should be rural & some urban.

*** Please indicate which other Councils, partners or external services could, in your opinion, participate in the review, saying why.**

- | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|
| -Schools | -Parents | -children |
| -Residents | -Motorists | -Cyclists |
| -Highways | -City Strategy | -Members |

*** Explain briefly how, in your opinion, such a review might be most efficiently undertaken?**

It is my impression that this should be looked at by an existing scrutiny committee. A sample of schools should be looked at across the city (including ones in Holgate that I have specific information about). The members should analyse the ease and problems of physical access to the school based on the criteria outlined in the above section, which indicates why I believe this topic is important.

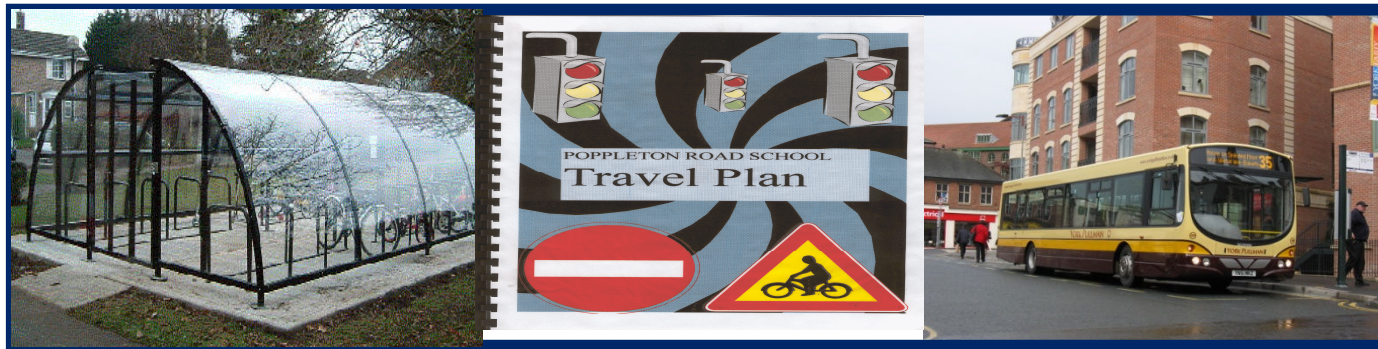
- Estimate the timescale for completion.
- 1-3 months
 - 3-6 months
 - 6-9 months

Support documents or other useful information None

Date submitted: Friday, 28th November, 2008, 12.29 pm; submitted by: Councillor James Alexander

School Travel Plans & Safe Routes to School

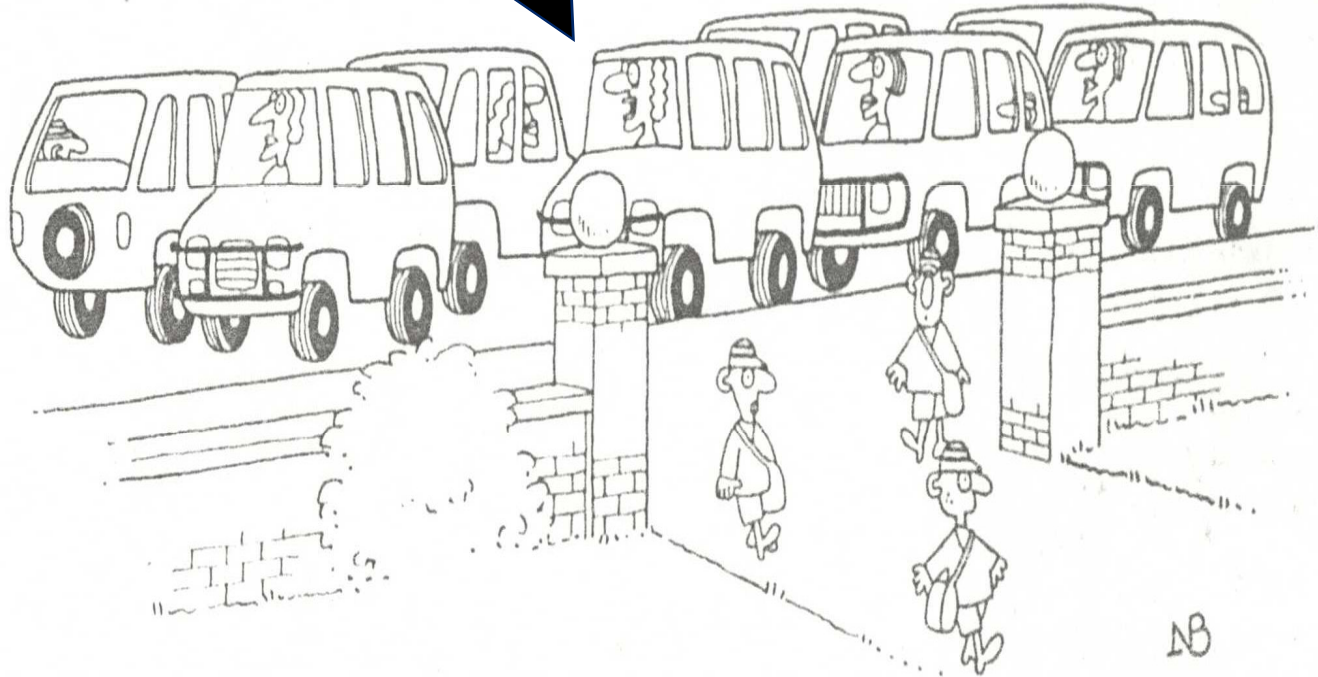
Presentation to the Economic & City
Development Overview & Scrutiny
Committee



Introductions & Agenda

- **Overview & historic context**
- **School Travel Plans**
- **Safe Routes to School**
- **Summary**
- **Questions**

“The school run’s a bind but it really isn’t safe to let them walk with all this traffic on the road”



School Travel Plans

‘We want local education and transport authorities to develop a joint strategic approach to school travel issues and to reduce car dependency for journeys to school in their area. School travel plans will be the key strategies for achieving this and we want authorities to work with schools or groups of schools to develop plans to meet local circumstances. Our objective is that all schools should have active travel plans before the end of the decade.’ (p48, Travelling to School – A good practice guide, 2003)

- Government target for Local Authorities – deliver 100% travel plans by March 2010



School Travel Objectives

- The environment – tackling congestion and climate change
- Safety – tackling casualty rates
- Health and well being – tackling obesity

School Travel Resources

- Engineering – over recent years
- Travel Plans – staff, etc
- Cycle City – key driver at present

School Travel Plans

What are they?

- Written Document
- Package of measures to improve safety on journey to school
- Consults with whole school community
- Identifies sustainable transport solutions

Role of the School Travel Advisor

- New STP's
- Review STP's e.g. for planning purposes
- Promotes sustainable travel to school
- Links with other CYC teams.



Key Drivers

- CYC Targets
- Planning requirements
- Healthy Schools
- Ad hoc enquiries including parking issues

Key Initiatives

- Walk To School Week
- Walking Buses
- Park and Stride
- Road Safety Initiatives
- Cycling City
 - Bike It
 - Beauty and the Bike
 - Events



Raising the profile





Travel Plan Outputs

Mode of Travel

- Effect on mode of travel
- Monitored by Census data
 - Annual Collection
 - Monitor *usual* mode
- Many of York's School Travel Plans written prior to 2007

Travel Plans

Looking Forward 2010-11

- Identify schools with potential for Mode Shift – 2010/11
- Launch Walk Once a Week (WOW)
- Further Cycle City events



Travel Plan Outputs

School Safety Schemes

- Used to identify hard and soft measures
- Soft measures mentioned previously
- Engineering identify hard (physical) measures

School Safety Schemes

- Safe Routes to School
- School Safety Zones
- School Cycle Parking

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Typical SRTS measures include:

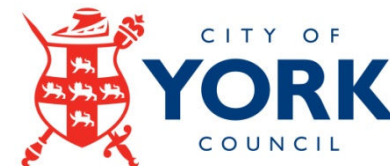
- Crossings
- Improved footways
- Cycle routes
- Road safety measures



School Safety Zones (SSZ)

A SSZ covers the main entrances to a School and generally includes:

- Traffic calming (usually speed tables and speed cushions)
- Improved crossing facilities
- Parking controls
- A 20 mph speed limit.



School Cycle Parking

- Programme of installations started in 2001
- Total of 2240 spaces in 53 schools
- Some schools already had provision or cycle parking has been provided as part of planning conditions.



History of School Safety Schemes in York

- The first programme of School Safety Schemes started in 1999 and focused on SRTS initiatives for all York Secondary Schools.
- Followed by the introduction of SSZ outside all 60 of York's Primary School's which was completed in 2006.



History of School Safety Schemes in York

- Reviews of many of the original safety zones have also been undertaken.
- With road safety much improved by slower vehicle speeds directly outside schools, the focus then shifted to SRTS for Primary Schools.

School Safety Programme

2009/10

Scheme Ref	09/10 City Strategy Capital Programme	Proposed Budget (LTP)	Scheme Type	Comments
		£1000s		
School Schemes				
SR01/07	Carr Infants & Juniors SRS	17.00	Scheme	Completion of 2008/09 scheme
SR04/08	Wigginton Primary SRS	11.00	Scheme	Costs of 2008/09 scheme completed in early 2009/10
SR19/05	Clifton Without SRS	11.00	Scheme	Costs of 2008/09 scheme completed in early 2009/10
SR10/09	Clifton with Rawcliffe SRS	18.00	Scheme	Pedestrian improvements at Eastholme Dr/ Byron Dr jct
SR20/05	Dringhouses Primary SRS	5.00	Scheme	Footway buildout at crossing point on Cherry Lane
SR01/09	Haxby Road Primary SRS	2.00	Study	Feasibility work on new crossing facilities
SR02/09	Hempland Primary SRS	5.00	Study	Feasibility work on new crossing facilities & footpath improvements
SR03/09	Hob Moor SRS	20.00	Scheme	Improvements at school entrance for peds and cyclists
SR04/09	Naburn Primary SRS	2.00	Study	Feasibility work on safety improvements
SR05/09	Poppleton Ousebank Primary SRS	2.00	Study	Feasibility work on crossing point improvements
SR06/09	Ralph Butterfield Primary SRS	10.00	Scheme	Footpath to Park & Stride site
SR07/09	The Mount & Tregelles SRS	20.00	Scheme	Pedestrian crossing point improvements
SR05/08	Woodthorpe Primary SRS	40.00	Scheme	Review of Park & Stride and provision of new footpath
SR08/09	York High SRS	40.00	Scheme	Works at new entrance including new ped crossing
SR09/09	Heworth Primary SRS	2.00	Study	Feasibility work on safety improvements
N/A	Safety Audit Works	5.00	Scheme	Allocation for cost of safety audit works

School Safety Programme 2009/10

School Cycle Parking				
SR11/09	Acomb Primary Cycle Parking	7.00	Scheme	Installation of cycle parking at schools
SR12/09	Haxby Road Primary Cycle Parking	7.00	Scheme	
SR13/09	Ralph Butterfield Primary Cycle Parking	7.00	Scheme	
SR14/09	Hempland Primary Cycle Parking	7.00	Scheme	
SR15/09	Carr Infants Cycle Parking	7.00	Scheme	
SR16/09	Hob Moor Schools Cycle Parking	7.00	Scheme	
SR17/09	Scooter Parking - Various Locations	8.00	Scheme	Installation of scooter parking at schools across the city
School Schemes Programme Total		260.00		
Overprogramming		60.00		
Budget		200.00		

- Funding for highway improvements as part of planning conditions for new school builds or extensions



Safety audit / minor works

- Dropped kerbs / tactile paving
- Signs and road markings
- Guardrail
- Bollards



Maintenance issues

- Includes uneven footways, potholes, missing signs, overgrown vegetation, faulty street lights.
- If there is a SRTS scheme, we will try and rectify problems where possible.
- Regular highway maintenance inspections will pick up highway defects.

Maintenance issues

York Pride Action Line

- Anyone wishing to report a defect, should contact the York Pride Action Line.

 (01904) 551551

 ypal@york.gov.uk

 www.york.gov.uk



Provisional School Safety Programme 2010/11

New initiatives may include:

- Heworth Primary SRTS – part time 20mph speed limit supported by dual message vehicle activated signs (VAS)



- Naburn Primary SRTS – remotely activated signs

School Safety Beyond 2010/11

- Dependent on priorities in Local Transport Plan 3 - April 2011 onwards (and the necessary funding)
- Based on the School Travel Advisors priority list of schools to be targeted (to be reported to Executive Member Decision Session)



School Travel Summary

- A lot of work completed. A lot still to do...
- Priorities for 2010/11
- Funding ceases for travel planning March 2011 – does the work stop there?

Thank you for listening!

Questions?

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

MEETING	ECONOMIC & CITY DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	22 FEBRUARY 2010
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS HUDSON (VICE-CHAIR, IN THE CHAIR), D'AGORNE, HOLVEY, HYMAN, KIRK, POTTER, SCOTT AND B WATSON (SUBSTITUTE)
IN ATTENDANCE	COUNCILLOR ALEXANDER
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLOR PIERCE

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare at this point in the meeting, any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

Councillor Potter declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 3 (School Travel Plans and Safe Routes to School - Possible Review Topic) as a School Governor.

Councillor Scott declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 3 (School Travel Plans and Safe Routes to School - Possible Review Topic) as he lived close to a Primary School.

43. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It had been reported that there had been no registrations to speak under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

44. SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL- POSSIBLE REVIEW TOPIC

Members received a presentation from Officers in the Transport Planning Unit on School Travel Plans and Safe Routes to Schools. The main themes of the presentation were as follows:

- School Travel Plans
 - What are School Travel Plans
 - Role of the School Travel Advisor
 - Key Drivers
 - Key Initiatives
 - Mode of Travel
 - Looking Forward 2010-2011
 - School Safety Schemes

- Safe Routes to Schools
 - School Safety Zones
 - School Cycle Parking
 - History of School Safety Schemes in York
 - School safety Programme
 - Safety Audit/Minor Works
 - Maintenance Issues

A School Travel Plan was a written document compiled by School Travel Plan Advisors in conjunction with individual schools. Plans are tailored to suit each school individually and aim to set out a package of measures to improve safety and sustainable travel choices. Officers expected there to be only two schools in York without School Travel Plans by the end of March 2010.

School Travel Plans are produced in consultation with both parents and children at schools, by asking which mode of transport they usually use to travel to school. The plans often look at problems that occur with transport to school such as the percentage of children who travel to school by car and parking issues that arise from this.

Discussions regarding School Travel Plans raised the following points:

- The percentage of children in secondary school in York travelling by car was between 7%-11%, and for children in primary school it was 30%. Parental income and location of the school affected these percentages.
- 20% of traffic around schools nationally was produced by the school run.
- Officers said that the method of monitoring the effectiveness of School Travel Plans was through reviews by the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator in conjunction with the school. This, of course, could only take place once a Travel Plan was in place
- In some schools it was the responsibility of the School Governors to review Travel Plans annually
- There was no legal responsibility for schools to have a Travel Plan although it was highly recommended and encouraged
- Schools who use their Travel Plans effectively are often those who have members of the community willing to assist in implementing them i.e. by volunteering to take charge of a walking bus, or by car sharing

Officers commented that one of the main difficulties encountered when discussing Safe Routes to School was that of the common perception that roads in the vicinity of schools are dangerous. Members were told how:

- There had been eight reported slight or serious accidents specifically on the route to school.
- There are currently twenty-one operational school-crossing patrols in York, although there are twenty-seven registered sites.
- There was a need for additional staff to man school crossing patrols and that this was being promoted through the "Look Again" campaign.

Officers informed Members that there had been improved safety around schools with a number of cycling and walking to school schemes, which had been formulated through School Travel Plans. The success of these initiatives were measured by the facts that:

- 65% of children in York complete their bike training whilst at primary school.
- The “Walk Once A Week” to school scheme would be replaced by “Walk to School Week” following the participation of 90% of York schools in the scheme in 2009.
- 100% of children in York undertake pedestrian training.
- More schools in York have been working with the new “Bike It” Officer and eleven schools have adopted a national Sustrans scheme, “Beauty and the Bike”, which was aimed at encouraging Year 6 and 7 girls to cycle to school.

Members were also told how more cycle events had been planned to increase public participation in using cycling as a safe way to travel to school such as; Biking Viking, Save our Bike Day and a Virtual Bike Race from Lands End to John O’Groats between the twenty one primary schools in York.

Following discussion Members felt that many of the issues raised were outside of the Economic and City Development Scrutiny Committee’s remit but still felt them to be important and worthy of review. The Committee therefore agreed that the best way forward would be for a cross cutting scrutiny committee comprising members of other relevant scrutiny committees to further examine this topic.

Members of the Committee agreed that should any review take place the focus should be on the following:

Funding

- Funding of the School Travel Co-ordinator Post after April 2011

Review of Travel Plans

- What factors make a successful School Travel Plan, what difference do School Travel Plans make & how could this influence LTP3
- How often are School Travel Plans reviewed/renewed and is there a policy around this
- Best Practice (are there any outstandingly good School Travel Plans & how can the successful factors within them be shared)
- How can the profile of School Travel Plans be raised

Health

- How can an increased use of School Travel Plans improve health benefits across the city

Parking, Congestion & Safety

- How can this be improved near schools

The Chair thanked Officers for their very informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That, based on the above discussion, the Committee ask the Scrutiny Management Committee to consider setting up a joint cross cutting Scrutiny Committee to progress this topic to review.

REASON: To address the concerns raised in the topic registration form.

45. WORK PLAN 2009-10

Members considered the Committee's work plan for 2009/10 together with extracts from the Forward Plan related to the Committee's remit.

The Scrutiny Officer updated Members on changes to the plan which included an amended start time of 3.00pm for the Newgate Market review meeting on 24 March and the July meeting moving from 6 to 13 July 2010.

RESOLVED: That the work plan be amended to reflect the above changes.

REASON: To assist in the planning of work for this Committee.

CLLR B HUDSON, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 7.00 pm].