
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.

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Report Approved

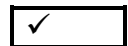


Date 05.03.2010

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