

**REPORT FOR: PERFORMANCE AND  
FINANCE SUB  
COMMITTEE**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> March 2015
<b>Subject:</b>	School Travel Plans Update
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Caroline Bruce - Corporate Director, Environment & Enterprise
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member area:</b>	Policy Lead Member – Councillor Jeff Anderson Performance Lead Member – Councillor Manjibhai Kara
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	<b>Appendix A</b> – Status of School Travel Plans in the borough

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out details of the current position with regard to the status of School Travel Plans within the borough

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

- 2.1 The Council's Transport Local Implementation Plan (LIP) sets out its policies and programmes which are designed to meet the requirements of the London Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) locally in Harrow and have been approved by the Mayor. A common theme of the Council's LIP, the Mayor's MTS and national transport policy is the need to move towards the use of more sustainable transport and this is particularly relevant to schools.
- 2.2 The occurrence of traffic congestion, obstruction and road safety problems outside schools is caused by an excess of private car trips to schools at opening and closing times and the Council's strategy for mitigating these impacts is to reduce the number of car borne trips and to increase walking, cycling and public transport modes instead.
- 2.3 This is facilitated through the development of a school travel plan by the school through engagement with the school community and assisted and supported by the Council's school travel planners. This is a particularly challenging area of work as it requires the school to take ownership of a Travel Plan under the directive of the Head teacher, and to encourage and persuade the school community to choose to use sustainable modes of transport. The focus is therefore on proactive rather than reactive initiatives and measures that will create a healthier and cleaner environment.

### **Current Position**

- 2.4 The schools are encouraged to produce and keep up to date a School Travel Plan (STP) which is a policy document written by a school in consultation with its pupils, parents and staff to address travel and transport issues in and around the school. The STP is owned by the school. An STP should be updated on an annual basis and includes a survey on how pupils and staff travel to school.
- 2.5 The Council's dedicated Travel Planners support the schools by providing an integrated approach to reviewing transport initiatives and problems and take account of the main issues and complaints highlighted around schools. This information is used to identify any travel behaviour changes required, any physical changes to the highway to support alternative travel modes and any enforcement initiatives that can mitigate any detrimental behaviours in order to achieve a better travel environment. This advice and guidance is provided to the school to help with the development of an effective STP.
- 2.6 As a part of the current school expansion programme the Council has a dedicated Travel Planner who works in partnership with the schools

which are expanding to help them develop strategies and measures for their STP to encourage a higher level of walking, cycling and public transport travel. The intention of this is to proactively limit any increase in private car usage due to the expansion that could affect the local environment.

- 2.7 School Travel Plans are a powerful way to influence parental behaviour and have been proven to encourage walking to school and actually reduce car use. Schools are encouraged to apply for accreditation through STARS (Sustainable Travel: Active, Responsible, Safe), A Transport for London led scheme. STARS provide bronze, silver and gold standards of accreditation based on the performance of the STP. In general terms the more initiatives a school delivers and the greater the changes in behaviour, the higher the STARS Accreditation award.
- 2.8 The programme provides a framework and support for nurseries, schools, colleges and academies to help them put accredited school travel plans in place. It rewards educational establishments for their achievements and commitment to encourage walking, cycling and road safety.
- 2.9 The programme helps schools to identify issues, set targets, monitor progress and celebrate success. Over 45% of London schools are currently part of the STARS accreditation scheme. STARS accredited schools have delivered over 15,000 travel initiatives such as cycle training, walking incentive schemes, independent travel skills training and campaigns to reduce congestion around the school site. Year on year, more and more schools are joining the STARS programme as they realise the benefits for their school, their pupils, their teachers and the entire school community.
- 2.10 TfL have a website dedicated to STARS, which provides support for schools. Harrow Council has a website, which is designed to assist schools in developing and updating their STP, making the process as simple as possible. The accreditation application has a number of categories and schools applying are encouraged to upload evidence throughout the academic year to demonstrate they meet the criteria. Applications are submitted to TfL in the summer term.
- 2.11 Participation in the STARS programme is voluntary however it has the following benefits for the whole school community:
  - Improved school grounds with provision for bicycle storage (where possible)
  - A more accessible school site
  - Fewer cars, less congestion and improved air quality around the school
  - Healthier, more productive and active pupils, families and staff
  - Improved attendance and academic success

- Recognition within the school, the local community and across London or travel-related achievements
  - Skills, knowledge and experience to make informed travel choices and equipping young people with valuable life skills to travel actively, safely and responsibly.
  - Encourages pupil participation and empowerment, benefiting pupils' personal development through the Junior Travel Ambassador (JTA) and Youth Travel Ambassador (YTA) schemes
- 2.12 **Appendix A** gives details of all existing schools in the borough with STP's and their current status within the STARS programme. The majority of schools that write a STP will become accredited at bronze level.
- 2.13 There are two gold accredited schools with a further seven school anticipated to achieve gold status soon.

### **School expansion programme**

- 2.14 There are 61 publicly funded schools in the borough and the available resources to provide a regular and visible presence at the schools is limited to 2 travel planning officers and a road safety officer. This is compounded by the fact that half of Harrow's primary schools are expanding and the demands being placed on this resource is increasing. The impact of school expansions is incremental over a 7 year period and consideration is being given to the necessary initiatives required to mitigate the potentially detrimental impacts of car travel resulting from the increasing size of the school population.
- 2.15 Each school expansion in the programme has an independent transport assessment undertaken to review all the current and future issues and recommends any necessary actions required. These findings are reported to the planning committee when the planning applications for the expansion schools are considered. Most recommendations involve amending the school travel plans and sometimes identify highway interventions needed to support the school travel plan. Any highway works need to be incorporated into forward work programmes based on when the school is expected to expand. School travel plans are revised and improved in advance of the school expansion and are generally a condition of the planning permission setting targets for the different levels of STARS accreditation.

### **Future programme of work**

- 2.16 The principle aim of the school travel planning initiative remains the same going forward and is intended to reduce the number of children taken to school in private vehicles, to encourage greater participation by schools in developing an STP, to improve the effectiveness of the STPs and to seek higher levels of STARS accreditation.

- 2.17 The initiatives are often presented as environmentally friendly programs that increase physical activity among children, resulting in benefits far beyond that of reduced traffic congestion. They are designed to change both parents' and students' behaviour and provide incentives for participating which can go a long way toward achieving congestion reductions. The councils Travel Planners arrange regular workshops with the schools to help them with the development of the STP and have a programme of events outside schools to discourage parents from using the motor car.
- 2.18 There is an on-going programme of consultations with schools which is monitored using a schools web based database. This database lists all the schools in the borough indicating when they were last visited and the status of their STP. Schools are encouraged to sign up to the TfL STARS accreditation scheme.
- 2.19 The intention for the coming year is to have 46 schools signed up to the STP process by the end of 2015\16. This is currently being set up as a directorate performance indicator which will indicate the percentage of participating schools with STPs.

### **Financial Implications**

- 2.20 Funding is made available from TfL to support development of STP's and implementation of physical measures and initiatives to promote sustainable transport.
- 2.21 In the 2014/15 financial year £50,000 was allocated through the councils Local Implementation Plan funded by TfL to introduce physical measures such as zebra crossings, pedestrian refuges and £80,000 for sustainable transport initiatives / promotions.

### **Performance Issues**

- 2.22 There is performance monitor for travel to school which is reviewed annually by the Environment & Enterprise department. This measures the overall proportion of children travelling to school by car. The performance data is gathered via surveys undertaken in the schools by school travel planning staff. Improved performance is indicated by a reducing percentage.
- 2.23 Currently about 30% of travel to school is by private car and this situation has been relatively stable in recent years. The aim is to see a reduction in this percentage in the next few years.

### **Environmental Impact**

- 2.24 The implementation of school travel plans has a beneficial impact on the environment and the delivery of both the council's Transport Local

implementation Plan and the council's climate change strategy. The key benefits are:

- Fewer journeys by car, less congestion, less pollution and improved air quality around the school,
- A safer and less threatening road environment that is more conducive to walking and cycling,
- Healthier lifestyles through greater levels of walking and cycling with improved long term attitudes in the young to exercise and mobility,
- Improved long term attitudes in the young to the use of sustainable transport as an alternative to the private car.

## **Risk Management Implications**

- 2.25 The school travel planning programme relies upon engagement with the key stakeholders in the school community in order to achieve positive outcomes. It is difficult to quantify how successful these initiatives can be as there are no obligations on people which dictate how they travel and they therefore have complete freedom of choice. These programmes are therefore reliant on using influence and promotional activities to achieve behaviour change and so it is difficult to risk manage them.
- 2.26 Any highway interventions proposed to support school travel planning initiatives are included within the Directorate risk register for highway improvements. These cover the need for projects to comply with budgetary, project management and safety risks identified.

## **Equalities Implications**

- 2.27 Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? Yes, this area of work has been assessed as a part of the Council's Transport Local implementation Plan which was subject to an EqIA. The key benefits are for the disabled, elderly and young.

## **Council Priorities**

- 2.28 The funds allocated by TfL and Harrow for school travel plans and any associated transport improvements will contribute to achieving the administration's priorities of:
- Making a difference for the vulnerable
  - Making a difference for communities
  - Making a difference for local businesses
  - Making a difference for families

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Jessie Man



on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 11/03/15

Name: Mathew Adams



on behalf of the  
Monitoring Officer

Date: 16/03/15

**Ward Councillors notified:**

**YES**

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:**

Barry Philips

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**Background Papers:**

Current STP's

	<b>School Name</b>	<b>Accreditation 2013/14</b>	<b>Accreditation 2014/15</b>	<b>Target 2015/16</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Alexandra School	Active Plan	Bronze	Bronze	School actively engaged – cycle club
2	Alpha Preparatory School	-	Bronze	Bronze	School actively engaged
3	Avanti House	-	-	Bronze	STP - complete
4	Aylward Primary School	-	Bronze	Bronze	School actively engaged
5	Belmont School	Silver	Silver	Gold	Recommended for gold
6	Bentley Wood High School	-	Bronze	Silver	Recommended for silver - active
7	Buckingham College Prep School	-	-	-	Engagement planned in the future
8	Cannon Lane Primary School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Expecting bronze
9	Canon High School	Bronze	-	Bronze	Needs further engagement
10	Cedars Manor	Bronze	-	Bronze	STP completed Feb 15
11	Earlsmead Primary School	Active Plan	Bronze	Bronze	School actively engaged
12	Elmgrove Primary	Active Plan	Active Plan	Bronze	Work shop planned
13	Glebe Primary School	Silver	Silver	Silver	Working towards gold
14	Grange Primary School	Bronze	Bronze	Silver	Working towards silver
15	Grimsdyke School	-	-	Bronze	STP completed Feb 15
16	Harrow School	-	-	-	School refuses to engage
17	Harrow High School	-	-	-	Work shop planned
18	Hatch End High School	-	-	-	Work shop planned
19	Heathfield School Pinner	Bronze	Bronze	N/A	School relocated to Hillingdon
20	Heathland School	Active Travel	-	-	Work shop planned
21	Kenmore Park Infant and Nursery	Silver	Silver	Silver	Working towards gold
22	Kenmore Park Junior School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Need to engage for silver
23	Kingsley SEN	-	Active STP	Bronze	Work shop planned
24	Krishna Avanti Primary School	Silver	Silver	Silver	Working towards gold
25	Longfield Primary School	Bronze	Bronze	Silver	Working towards silver
26	Marlborough Primary School	Bronze	Silver	Silver	Maintain silver more work required for gold
27	Newton Farm Infant /Junior School	Silver	Silver	Gold	Working towards gold
28	Norbury School	Silver	Gold	Gold	Maintain gold status
29	Nower Hill High	-	Bronze	Silver	Expect Silver status
30	Orley Farm School	-	-	Bronze	Engagement required



31	Park High School	-	-	Bronze	Meeting planned working towards bronze
32	Pinner Park infant / Junior School	-	-	Bronze	Working towards – engagement required
33	Pinner Wood School	-	-	Bronze	Meeting planned working towards bronze
34	Priestmead School	-	Bronze	Silver	Working towards silver
35	Quainton Hall School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Maintain bronze status
36	Reddiford School	Active Travel	Silver	Silver	Maintain silver status
37	Rooks Heath College	Active Travel	Active Travel	Bronze	Bronze –require further engagement
38	Roxbourne Primary School	Active Travel	Bronze	Bronze	Maintain bronze status
39	Salvatorian College	-	-	Bronze	STP complete
40	Shaftesbury High School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Maintain bronze status
41	St Anselm's Catholic Primary School	Bronze	Bronze	Gold	Going for gold
42	St Bernadettes School	Active Travel	-	Bronze	Going for bronze
43	St George's Primary School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Maintain bronze status
44	St John Fisher RC Primary School	Gold	Gold	Gold	Gold School flagship
45	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Silver	Silver	Gold	Trying for gold
46	St Teresa's RC Primary School	Silver	Silver	Silver	Maintain silver possible gold with help
47	Stag Lane Infant School	-	-	Bronze	Started STP process keen to get bronze
48	Stag Lane Junior School	-	-	Bronze	Started STP process keen to get bronze
49	Stanburn Infant School	Bronze	-	Bronze	Initial contact this year possible bronze
50	Stanburn Junior School	Bronze	-	Bronze	Initial contact this year possible bronze
51	The John Lyon School	-	Bronze	Active STP	meetings planned
52	Vaughan Nursery Primary School	Silver	Silver	Gold	Going for gold
53	Weald Infant and Nursery School	Bronze	Bronze	Bronze	Maintain bronze status
54	Weald Junior School	-	-	Bronze	Working towards silver
55	Welldon Park Infant and Nursery School	Silver	Silver	Silver	Maintain silver status possible gold
56	West Lodge School	Active Travel	Silver	Silver	Maintain silver this year
57	Whitchurch First School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Going for silver
58	Whitchurch Junior School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Going for silver
59	Whitefriars Community School	-	Bronze	Bronze	Working towards silver
60	Whitmore High School	-	Silver	Silver	Maintain silver gold next year
61	Woodlands SEN/ Camrose Primary	-	-	Bronze	Working towards bronze,silver in two years