

REPORT OF THE LEAD CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

The Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Maynard, met on 26 January 2015.

Attendance: Councillor Maynard (Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment)

Also present: Councillor Lambert

1. Notice of Motion: Parking outside Schools

1.1 The following Notice of Motion has been submitted by Councillor Lambert:

That the Cabinet considers urgently reviewing its contract with the Park Shop to ensure that the Park Shop monitors illegal and inconsiderate parking outside schools in the county at least once a term and takes appropriate enforcement action, and that the Cabinet considers taking action to make all zig-zag markings outside schools in the county enforceable with the appropriate Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)

1.2 In line with the Council's practice, the matter was referred by the Chairman to the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.

1.3 The Park Shop mentioned in the Notice of Motion refers to the Parking Shop (or the Parking Information Centre). This is the customer-facing office operated by NSL, the County Council's contractor responsible for enforcing all parking and waiting restrictions in the civil parking enforcement (CPE) areas of Eastbourne, Lewes, and Hastings.

1.4 There are 192 schools in the County, of which 118 are in the CPE areas where parking enforcement is the responsibility of the County Council. Of these, 51 have enforceable School Keep Clear (SKC) markings, i.e. are accompanied by at least one upright sign and a TRO has been introduced. The cost to introduce enforceable SKC markings at the remaining 141 schools in the County is estimated to be around £40,000.

1.5 Enforcement in the non-CPE areas of Rother and Wealden is the responsibility of Sussex Police. Enforcement of SKC markings in the CPE areas can be carried out by both Sussex Police and NSL, but only where there is a supporting TRO in place. Effective enforcement of parking and waiting restrictions should prioritise the movement of traffic to improve road safety and the local environment, as well as managing and reconciling the competing demands for kerb space for all road users. Maintaining a level of enforcement around schools has been an operational priority for the County Council and Sussex Police for many years. A joint initiative with Sussex Police to raise the profile of school safety is ongoing and it has been welcomed by Head teachers, but as always, the level of activity is dependent on available resources.

1.6 In the past year the number of patrols outside schools has been increased. NSL have prioritised these patrols and report back to the County Council each month with the number of visits undertaken. A total of 489 school patrols were undertaken and 89 penalty charge notices (PCNs) have been issued in the 12 months to December 2014 to vehicles parked on SKC markings in the CPE areas. Most have been paid without challenge. The presence of a uniformed officer clearly has a deterrent effect.

1.7 The current legal process for introducing enforceable SKCs is that a TRO must be advertised and follow a consultation procedure which could take up to twelve months to process.

1.8 The Department for Transport (DfT) are expected to issue a revised document later this year which should relax the requirement for a TRO for SKCs. If this goes ahead then any new SKC markings can be introduced by way of a Public Notice rather than a formal TRO. This will remove the cost for TRO advertisement in local newspapers but will not remove the requirement for consultation. Any identified priority locations would need to be addressed locally by way of a Public Notice (placed on site at the location rather than advertised in a newspaper) and consultation with local stakeholders.

1.9 NSL will continue to undertake an ongoing program of school patrols and take enforcement action where appropriate. This is over and above the 'once a term' request in the Notice of Motion.

1.10 As the date for the DfT revision is not certain, it is recommended that enforceable school keep clear markings are introduced at those schools in the civil parking enforcement areas where there are known issues of inconsiderate parking as part of the regular scheduled review for that area. If the DfT proposals go ahead the priority locations should be progressed locally by way of Public Notice.

1.11 Eastbourne, Hastings, and Lewes (including Lewes District) each have a budget allocated for the annual parking reviews. To manage this budget and to make the most effective use of our resources, any request for a new parking restriction such as a School Keep Clear marking is assessed using a priority ranking system. Only those requests with a high enough priority ranking are progressed to consultation as part of the regular review for each area. Outside the CPE areas, requests for SKC markings will have to be prioritised against all of the other demands of the County Council's road safety budget.

1.12 NSL will continue to undertake an ongoing program of school patrols and take enforcement action where appropriate. This is over and above the 'once a term' request in the Notice of Motion. As the date for the DfT revision is not certain, it is recommended that enforceable school keep clear markings are introduced at those schools in the civil parking enforcement areas where there are known issues of inconsiderate parking as part of the regular scheduled review for that area. If the DfT proposals go ahead the priority locations should be progressed locally by way of Public Notice.

1.13 The Lead Cabinet Member **recommends** the County Council to –

☆ (1) note the report in relation to Councillor Lambert's Notice of Motion;

(2) request the Cabinet to agree that the enforcement contractor (NSL) continue the current programme of school patrols; and

(3) request the Cabinet to agree that enforceable school keep clear markings are introduced at those schools in the civil parking enforcement areas where there are proven issues of inconsiderate parking as part of the regular scheduled review for that area.

26 January 2015

CARL MAYNARD
Lead Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment