

**Report to:** Lead Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety

**Date of meeting:** 28 June 2017

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Petition for the provision of a School Crossing Patrol, Prince Edwards Road, Lewes

**Purpose:** To consider the petition for the provision of a School Crossing Patrol on Prince Edwards Road in Lewes to assist children and families crossing the road to get to and from school

---

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Lead Member is recommended to advise the petitioners that:

- (1) The provision of a School Crossing Patrol on Prince Edwards Road is not a priority for the County Council at the present time; and
  - (2) Wallands School and/or local community groups may wish to consider sponsoring a School Crossing Patrol for Prince Edwards Road
- 

## 1. Background Information.

1.1 At the County Council meeting on 7 February 2017 Councillor O’Keeffe presented a petition to the Chairman stating:

*“Approximately 100 children from Wallands School and a significant number attending other schools in Lewes have to cross Prince Edwards Road to get to and from school. Due to speeding cars, road junctions and numerous parked cars, crossing Prince Edwards Road is a hazardous experience. We have looked into having the parking reduced or having a zebra crossing, but none of these options are viable. **The best solution is to have a lollipop person to help children cross the road on their way to and from school.** If we can get 200 signatures in support of this petition, we can go to the council to make our case”.*

1.2 A copy of the petition is available in the Members’ Room. Standing Orders provide that where the Chairman considers it appropriate petitions are considered by the relevant Committee or Lead Member and a spokesperson for the petitioners is invited to address the Committee. The Chairman has referred this petition to the Lead Member for Communities and Safety.

## 2. Supporting Information

2.1 Policy Summary PS 5/1 covers the provision of School Crossing Patrols (Appendix 1). This states that the requirements of the nationally accepted Road Safety GB (formally the Local Authority Road Safety Officers’ Association) ‘School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines’ are best practice and are considered appropriate for adoption in East Sussex.

2.2 The national guidelines sets basic criteria requirements to establish if a School Crossing Patrol should be funded by the local authority. These criteria are based on the number of children crossing the road and the volume of traffic on that road. It represents a numerical measurement of the potential risk associated with each site and ensures a fair allocation of resources.

2.3 To determine whether a School Crossing Patrol is authorised and funded from the Road Safety budget a site survey is undertaken (site survey plan attached as Appendix 2). The survey takes into consideration various factors, such as visibility, gradients and additional facilities such as zebra crossings as well as the number of pedestrians and vehicles at the crossing point during peak times. The results produce a numerical rating, which must meet a benchmark score in order for a patrol to be provided.

2.4 The results from the site survey for Prince Edwards Road carried out on 16 March 2017 indicate that the site is well below the required threshold for funding, meeting 48% of the required score. This low score does not warrant further investigation according to Road Safety GB Guidelines. A copy of the completed survey is attached as Appendix 3.

2.5 There is no statutory requirement to provide School Crossing Patrols and removal of the service was considered as part of the Reconciling Policy and Performance Resources (RPPR) process. However, Members recognised the value of the service and agreed to continue funding those sites that met our policy criteria. The approval of additional School Crossing Patrols at sites of local concern was recognised at the time and Members agreed that we should support these, as long as there were no financial implications on the Road Safety Budget. We have therefore put in place a scheme which allows School Crossing Patrols to operate at sites not meeting the national criteria, if local sponsorship can be found.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to advise petitioners that the provision of a School Crossing Patrol on Prince Edwards Road is not a priority for the County Council at the present time, as the site does not meet the recognised criteria for funding.

3.2 If Wallands School and/or local community groups wish to consider sponsoring a School Crossing Patrol for Prince Edwards Road, it is recommended that they contact the Road Safety Team who can provide relevant information, including terms and conditions.

RUPERT CLUBB

Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Contact Officer: Darren Dowd

Tel. No. 01273 482293

Email: [darren.dowd@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:darren.dowd@eastsussex.gov.uk)

LOCAL MEMBER

Councillor O'Keeffe

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None