

Report to: Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 19 March 2019

By: Chair of the Review Board

Title: Scrutiny Review of the Effectiveness of School Travel Plans

Purpose: To present the outcomes of the scrutiny review and make recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee considers and endorses the report of the Review Board, and makes recommendations to Cabinet for comment, and County Council for approval.

1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 13 September 2018, the Place Scrutiny Committee agreed to form a Review Board to undertake a Scrutiny Review of the Effectiveness of School Travel Plans. This followed initial scoping work by a small group of Committee Members and Officers.

1.2 A recurring feature of objections to expansions of schools in the County is the effect on traffic conditions in the area, particularly anti-social parking at pick-up and drop-off times. In the minds of objectors an increase in pupil numbers equates to an inevitable increase in cars, traffic and negative impact on their amenity.

1.3 A School Travel Plan is a statement by the School of its plans to encourage sustainable methods of transport to the School, and to reduce reliance on cars to pick up and drop off pupils. When applying for planning permission, especially in cases of significant expansion, the provision or updating of a School Travel Plan is usually made a formal condition of that permission.

1.4 Members of the County Council's Planning Committee, which determines applications made by County Council controlled schools, have expressed reservations as to the enforceability and effectiveness of School Travel Plans.

1.5 The purpose of the Scrutiny Review is to make recommendations:

- To support greater effectiveness of the monitoring of school travel plans secured through the planning process, and
- Ensure existing information in relation to school travel initiatives and guidance in relation to school travel is readily available to access for schools, parents and carers.

2. Summary

2.1 The members of the Review Board are Councillors Godfrey Daniel (Chair), Claire Dowling and Nigel Enever.

2.2 The attached report (appendix 1) contains the findings and recommendations of the Review Board. Copies of evidence papers listed in the report and other support documentation are available on request from the contact officer.

2.3 The Committee is recommended to receive the Review Board's report for submission to Cabinet and County Council on 23 April 2019 and 14 May 2019 respectively.

3. Recommendations and conclusion

3.1 The Committee is requested to consider and endorse the report of the Review Board for submission to Cabinet and Full Council.

COUNCILLOR GODFREY DANIEL
Chair of the Review Board

Contact Officer: Simon Bailey
Tel No. 01273 481935
Email: simon.bailey@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS: All.