

Report to: Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 1 July 2015

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Scrutiny Review of School Crossing Patrol Alternative Funding

Purpose: To update the Committee on the implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee Review Board.

RECOMMENDATION: Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the progress made by the Road Safety Team on the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Board.

1 Background

1.1. A decision was made by Cabinet on 15 October 2013 to consult on ceasing to fund 13 School Crossing Patrol sites that had been identified as not meeting the Council's funding policy criteria. Following this decision the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee undertook a review of alternative funding options available for School Crossing Patrols.

1.2 The Review Board reported their findings to the County Council on 2 December 2014. The Report of the Review Board is included as Appendix 1.

1.3 An update on the recommendations of the Review Board is included as Appendix 2.

2 Supporting information

2.1. The Cabinet decision of 15 October 2013 affecting 13 School Crossing Patrol sites resulted in:

- 3 sites being re-assessed and retained as they meet the funding criteria
- 6 sites being sponsored by the relevant school
- 4 sites being closed

2.2 The present make-up of the School Crossing Patrol Service is:

- 28 sites being funded from the Road Safety revenue budget
- 21 sites funded (either fully or partly) on a sponsorship basis
- 8 sites run on a volunteer basis

2.3 In 2014/15 the cost of School Crossing Patrols was £122K with £40K of income from schools and sponsorship, net £82k. It had been expected that a saving of £50K would be delivered from the reduction in the number of School Crossing Patrols that received funding from the County Council, however a saving of only £22K was achieved.

2.4 As part of the current medium financial plan £150K of the £305K savings target for Road Safety has been achieved in 2014/15, with £155K carried forward as a savings target in 2015/16. Road Safety Education savings are unachieved in part, as the savings were initially allocated without recognising the income generated by

activities. We are currently reviewing where mitigations for these savings can be made and will look to move the saving in due course.

2.5 Since the Cabinet decision, other than those sites affected, the Road Safety Team has not been approached by any School interested in funding a School Crossing Patrol on a sponsorship or voluntary basis.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1. The provision of School Crossing Patrols is an emotive subject. The application of national guidance gives a clear and consistent basis for providing a patrol site funded by the County. The ability for a school to sponsor a patrol allows flexibility for those communities that consider a patrol to be a benefit.

3.2. It is recommended that Scrutiny Committee notes the progress being made and that the production of a revised information pack will help schools consider if sponsorship is an appropriate method for them.

RUPERT CLUBB

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None