

Report to: Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 15 June 2016

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: 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 further progress made by the Road Safety Team on the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Board to find alternative funding for School Crossing Patrols, following the update provided to the Committee in July 2015.

1 Background Information

1.1. Following a decision 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; 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 (see Appendix 1). The Report of the Review Board was presented to the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee which met on the 10 September 2014 (see Background Documents).

1.3 An update on the recommendations of the Review Board was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 1 July 2015 and a further update of these recommendations is included as Appendix 2 to this report, including the current position.

1.4 Reference is made in Appendix 2 to a pack for schools to assist them in sponsorship bids, which is attached at Appendix 3.

2 Supporting Information

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

- 3 sites being reassessed 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 (previous figures contained within the July 2015 report are shown in brackets):

- 29 (28) sites being funded from the Road Safety revenue budget – 6 of these approved sites are not currently operational due to a lack of any suitable candidates to fill these posts
- 21 (21) sites funded (either fully or partly) on a sponsorship basis – 5 of these sites are not currently operational due to a lack of any suitable candidates to fill these posts.
- 5 (8) sites run on a volunteer basis

2.3 Since the Cabinet decision in 2013, other than those sites affected, the Road Safety Team has only been approached by one School interested in funding a School Crossing Patrol on a sponsorship basis and one on a voluntary basis. Five other Schools have been provided with the Sponsorship Pack shown in Appendix 3 following requests for a School Crossing Patrol

that was assessed as not meeting the criteria. None of these Schools has expressed an interest in pursuing this further.

2.4 We are presently assessing two of the existing approved sites as the Officer at the site has handed in their notice and initial assessments indicate that the national criteria is not met. Further assessments will be undertaken and if the sites fall short of the necessary criteria, the schools will be informed that funding will be withdrawn. We will support the Schools through this process and provide the necessary information so that they can consider if sponsoring the site is an appropriate course to follow.

2.5 Following requests for a School Crossing Patrol two new sites have been identified as potentially meeting the national criteria. Further assessments will be undertaken and if these sites do fulfil the necessary requirements the site will be accepted as an approved site for funding. The number of School Crossing Patrols in the near future is therefore relatively static with no increased pressure on the available funding.

3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The provision of School Crossing Patrols remains 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 the Scrutiny Committee notes the progress being made and that the information provided by the Road Safety Team will help support schools to consider if sponsorship is an appropriate method for them.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Scrutiny Review of School Crossing Patrol (SCP) alternative funding. July 2014.

<https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/improving/measuringperformance/scrutiny/reviews/2013/scrutiny-review-of-school-crossing-patrols>