

Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 5 October 2017

Review of School Crossing Patrol Service

Item number	8.6
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All
Council Commitments	C16

Executive Summary

A review of the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) service is ongoing; the initial stage assessed current sites and gathered technical data using a common approach that enables sites to be compared.

The next stage in the review would be to consult with service users and service providers to seek their views about existing sites, as well as potential alternatives or additional new sites. This report seeks approval to undertake this consultation.

Following this, it is intended to develop a draft SCP Policy for this Committee to consider in late 2018.

Review of School Crossing Patrol Service

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
 - 1.1.1 notes the work that has been undertaken to date on the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) review;
 - 1.1.2 notes consultation will be taking place with service users and service providers to seek their views about existing sites, as well as potential alternatives or additional new sites; and
 - 1.1.3 notes that it is intended to develop a draft SCP Policy for this Committee to consider in late 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report follows the initial 'Review of School Crossing Patrol Service' report, considered by the Transport and Environment Committee on 16 March 2016 (Item 7.11).
- 2.2 The SCP service is not a statutory function. A Local Authority may provide a SCP service as a discretionary service, however, doing so does not diminish a parent's/guardian's responsibility for ensuring their child's safety on the school journey. It remains their decision as to when their child is mature enough to undertake the journey to and from school without adult supervision.
- 2.3 A national standard for the provision of a SCP service is set out in the Road Safety GB School Crossing Patrol Service - Guidelines: revised November 2014.
- 2.4 While those guidelines are used in Edinburgh to assess requests that are received for new SCP sites to be established, the Council does not currently have a formal policy on the provision of a SCP service. No existing sites have ever been formally dis-established; operational decisions have, however, been taken to suspend some sites that exhibit little or no demand.
- 2.5 There are currently 243 established SCP sites, although only 205 are operational. At the time of the assessments (September 2016) there were 157 SCP Guides; the number of SCP Guides employed varies constantly due to a significant ongoing level of staff turnover.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The work completed so far undertook a technical analysis of all 243 sites. This assessed demand from children to cross the road, traffic levels and the local road environment at each site, to gather technical data using a common approach that enables sites to be compared.
- 3.2 This report seeks approval to now consult with key users and stakeholders of the SCP service, to seek their views about:
 - 3.2.1 existing sites (whether currently resourced or not);
 - 3.2.2 potential alternatives to replace existing sites; and
 - 3.2.3 possible additional new sites.
- 3.3 This will be undertaken via a wide ranging, clear consultation and engagement process using a variety of methods.
- 3.4 The feedback gathered will assist the Council to develop a draft SCP Policy for this Committee to consider in late 2018.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 A wide ranging, clear consultation and engagement process that will inform the development of a draft SCP Policy.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Any potential budgetary or resource implications cannot be determined until a draft SCP Policy has been developed.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The development of a SCP Policy will enable the Council to ensure the service:
 - 6.1.1 aligns with its strategic transport objectives;
 - 6.1.2 represents best value; and
 - 6.1.3 reflects an assessed level of risk and considers the safety of all road users.

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 The potential outcomes in relation to the rights and delivery of the three Public Sector Equality Duties (PSED) will be considered and referenced throughout the review and consultation processes.

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Changes to the SCP service may affect the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 in terms of altered travel habits.
- 8.2 Therefore, any potential changes will take into consideration the Council's responsibility to minimise any negative impacts whilst seeking to increase positive impacts.

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 This report seeks support for consultation with the key users, Head teachers and parent councils.
- 9.2 This will be undertaken via a wide ranging, clear consultation and engagement process using a variety of methods.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Road Safety GB; [School Crossing Patrol Service - Guidelines](#): revised November 2014.

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11. Appendices

None.