

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL STRATEGY

Part C – What will happen in Derbyshire in Future?



2007-2011

Previous sections have shown how the County Council is promoting more sustainable travel to school. More than half the schools in Derbyshire have already adopted a School Travel Plan and by March 2010 every school in the County will have its own plan.

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) is providing funding for an extensive programme of engineering measures including school safety zones and safer routes to school. This is helping to create a safer environment around schools that is more conducive to encouraging walking and cycling.

Further support is provided by the school transport service that provides home to school transport for 30,000 students; a special needs transport service that provides transport for 1,600 pupils and students with special needs; the school crossing patrol service operating at nearly 300 sites throughout Derbyshire; and a road safety service that co-ordinates road safety education and training to schools and young people.

These services will continue to be provided in the future, and will be further improved and developed in response to changing needs.

As part of the Local Transport Plan process the Government requires local authorities to set a target for the 'mode share of travel to school' (i.e. the proportion of children travelling to school by various means of transport). The data needed to establish this target was not available until the results of the School Census were published in 2007.

Nationally, there are significant social and economic pressures, including increased car ownership and rising disposable incomes, which are tending to increase car use for the journey to school. Against this background the County Council has set what is thought to be an ambitious target of holding car use at or below its 2006/07 level. This target will provide a focus for the further development and refinement of the strategy to promote more sustainable travel to school.

Key areas of future activity include:

- **Adoption of School Travel Plans at all schools in Derbyshire.** The County Council will continue to support and encourage schools to develop School Travel Plans to ensure that every school in Derbyshire has adopted a travel plan by March 2010.
- **Maintain support for existing School Travel Plans.** The County Council will continue to provide advice and support for schools that have already adopted travel plans. The Authority will provide expertise and share examples of good practice with schools.
- **Addressing barriers to sustainable travel.** The analysis undertaken as part of the School Travel plan process identifies actual and perceived barriers to more sustainable travel. These vary from place to place but may include, for example, concerns about road safety or

about behaviour on buses (currently being addressed through the introduction of CCTV on buses and other initiatives).

- **Support sustainable transport initiatives.** The County Council is committed to stemming the growth in the numbers of children taken to school by car and to maintaining car use at or below its current level. The Authority will continue to work with schools, parents and children to raise awareness and influence behaviour through School Travel Plans and by supporting 'Walk to School Week' and other 'Travel Smart' initiatives.
- **Ensure that sustainable travel initiatives and road safety schemes and measures are closely integrated.** The County Council has made good progress in reducing the numbers of children killed and injured on Derbyshire's roads. Continuing action will be needed to ensure that this improvement is sustained and that risks to children travelling to and from school are minimised.
- **Provide schemes and measures to support School Travel Plans through the Local Transport Plan.** School Travel Plans may identify needs for local improvements in the road and footpath network that may help to encourage children to travel to school on foot, by cycle or by public transport. Examples include better pedestrian crossing facilities, better access to bus stops and the provision or improvement of pavements and footpaths. While the level of available funding will always be limited, the Local Transport Plan provides the main means of securing such improvements.
- **Co-ordinate other services to support School Travel Plans.** Other transport and road safety services (eg home to school transport, road safety, school crossing patrols) will be co-ordinated and developed to support School Travel Plans. The scope of the School Crossing Patrol service is currently constrained by the difficulty of recruiting staff and efforts will continue to be made to work with schools and the local community to recruit staff where they are most needed.
- **Ensure that available data is used effectively in developing activities and initiatives.** The school census and information from School Travel Plans is providing an increasing amount of information about journeys to school and about what matters to children and their parents. This can be used to help establish priorities, to target initiatives where they will do most good and to ensure that resources are used most effectively.

- **Monitor performance and effectiveness.** The County Council's progress in promoting sustainable travel will be monitored on a regular basis. Key indicators include:
 - The number of schools adopting School Travel Plans
 - The proportion of children taken to school by car
 - The number of children involved in road accidents on their journey to and from school

Performance indicators for each of these areas have been established and progress will be monitored on a regular basis. Where necessary corrective action will be taken to ensure that progress remains on track.

The County Council's Strategy for Sustainable School Travel is still being developed and refined and will continue to be amended in response to developments within and outside the Authority. It is, however, envisaged that the above activities will form the cornerstone of the Strategy. The next stage to be undertaken in the Autumn of 2007 is to develop this into a more detailed Action Plan that co-ordinates activity across a range of services and establishes a clear work programme.