

Agenda Item No.5

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**8 September 2015**

Joint Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment  
and the Strategic Director – Children and Younger Adults

**SUSTAINABLE MODES OF TRAVEL STRATEGY**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To inform the Cabinet Member of the statutory duty placed on all local authorities to produce a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy (SMoTS), this following new guidance produced by the Department for Education, and to seek approval for the publication of a Statement of Intent to outline the Council's commitment to develop and produce a full SMoTS by 31 August 2016.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The Department for Education has recently re-issued home to school travel and transport guidance, which details the statutory duty of the local authority to:

- Promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.
- Make transport arrangements for all eligible children.

There are five key elements to the duty and these cover schools, academies and free schools for compulsory school aged children (5-16). These require the Local Authority to:

1. undertake an assessment of the travel and transport needs of children, and young people within the Authority's area;
2. audit the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the Authority's area that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions;
3. develop a strategy to deliver sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the Local Authority Area, so that the travel and transport needs of children and young people are best catered for;
4. promote sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions; and
5. write and publish a SMoTS.

It is intended that the final Strategy will focus on changing hearts and minds, and be aimed at a wide target audience that will include children, parents and the school community as a whole. This behavioural change approach will highlight how important the promotion of sustainable travel is for a variety of reasons, including:

- Helping to assist the local economy by reducing congestion and increasing productivity.
- Improving the physical and mental well-being of children.
- Improving local air quality by reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and other harmful emissions.

It is important to note that the Statutory Duty lies with the Council and not with any specific department within the Council. It is a cross-departmental responsibility which will require input from a number of teams across the Council, including Public Health, Corporate Resources, Children and Younger Adults (CAYA) and Economy, Transport and Environment (ETE), with the latter two departments sharing the lead.

As an interim step, it is proposed that a Statement of Intent will be published on Derbyshire County Council's website outlining the Council's commitment to develop and produce a full SMoTS by 31 August 2016.

### **Next Steps**

It is proposed that the following steps will be undertaken to provide a phased approach to full compliance with the Duty:

- Publish the Statement of Intent by 31 August 2015, or as soon as possible after this date (attached at Appendix 1 to this report) in lieu of developing a full SMoTS for publication by 31 August 2016.
- Establish a cross-departmental working group comprising a range of partners, including representation from ETE, CAYA, Public Health and Corporate Resources.
- Engage with Derbyshire's schools to assist in the development and delivery of the Strategy.
- Develop a realistic and deliverable action plan.
- Publish the Strategy by 31 August 2016.
- Review delivery of actions and update on an annual basis.

(3) **Financial Considerations** It is understood that in order to support local authorities in the delivery of this duty, a grant for extended rights to free travel and a general duty to promote sustainable travel is paid to local authorities. Derbyshire's allocation was £0.971m in 2014-15 and will be £0.861m in 2015-16, paid as a non-ringfenced grant. Prior to this, the grant had previously been part of Area Based Grant (also non-ringfenced).

Whilst it may be possible to undertake some of the work, detailed above, within the existing resources of the Sustainable Travel Team, for example through the continuation of activities such as Travel Smart week and the Scooter Smart programme, resources are limited and currently require the adoption of a targeted approach on a limited number of schools willing to engage in this process.

However, in order to comply with all five key elements of the Strategy, consideration would need to be given to the level of resources required, in particular, with regard to Officer time. Consideration for this provision would, however, be dependent on the level of ambition contained within the Strategy.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(4) **Key Decision** No.

(5) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decision proposed in the report? No.

(6) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Richard Lovell, extension 38192.

(7) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

7.1 Notes the Statutory Duty placed on the Council to develop a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy and the revised guidelines associated with this.

7.2 Approves the publication of a Statement of Intent, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, in lieu of the development and publication of a full Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy by 31 August 2016 which will be reported to Cabinet.

7.3 Agrees to receive further updates as and when appropriate.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy,**  
**Transport and Environment**

**Ian Johnson**  
**Strategic Director – Children**  
**and Younger Adults**

## Derbyshire County Council

## Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy - Statement of Intent

31 August 2015

As part of Derbyshire County Council's Statutory Duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to children and young people of compulsory school age, the Council has published a **Statement of Intent** underlining its commitment to the development and delivery of a **Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy**, which will be published in full by 31 August 2016.

Derbyshire County Council can demonstrate a long and successful track record of working with its schools, encouraging parents and children to choose more active, healthier and environmentally friendly ways of travelling to school. All Derbyshire's schools have a Travel Plan in place and, whilst it is recognised some schools are more active than others, many continue to engage in a range of activities encouraging positive modal shift. These activities and initiatives include:

1. **Travel Smart programme** This bi-annual initiative is timed to coincide with the national Walk To School week held during May and October. Currently, 265 primary schools take part with over 43,000 primary-aged children benefiting from this initiative.
2. **Scooter Smart programme** This initiative promotes the safe use of scooters as a key mode of travel to and from school. During the academic school year 2015-16, 25 schools and 2,500 primary-aged children have benefitted from the programme.
3. **Modeshift STARS** This a national schools award scheme which recognises schools that have demonstrated excellence in supporting cycling, walking and other forms of sustainable travel. Currently, over 40 of Derbyshire's schools have registered.
4. **Five60 programme** In partnership with Public Health, all Derbyshire's primary schools have taken part in this initiative where active travel is encouraged to form part of a child's daily physical activity 'allowance'.
5. Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with Kilburn Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), are current holders of the Modeshift 'Contribution to Sustainable Travel' Team Award for 2014 and have enjoyed success in the last three annual Modeshift awards for the promotion of active

travel. The Team is currently working with similar SNT partnerships in other areas of the County.

As part of the process to deliver on its commitment, the Council has established a cross-departmental Working Group, whose primary focus will be to develop the Council's overarching vision for the promotion of sustainable travel and transport to children and young people. The Working Group will be made up of key personnel from the following departments:

- Economy, Transport and Environment.
- Children and Younger Adults.
- Public Health.
- Corporate Resources.

In summary, over the following 12 months, up to and including 31 August 2016, this Working Group will provide the mechanism to deliver on the Council's commitment to the five key components of the duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to children and young people. This commitment will therefore include:

1. undertaking an assessment of all children's travel needs where at all possible. This will be achieved primarily through the application of the Modeshift STARS for Schools programme. Schools will be encouraged to register onto the programme and to provide data, on an annual basis, detailing current travel modes and attitudes to behavioural change;
2. completing an infrastructure audit at all Derbyshire schools where at all possible. As with (1) above, this will be achieved primarily through the Modeshift STARS for Schools programme;
3. producing a written Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy. As detailed above, this will be published on the Council's website and made available to all parents by 31 August 2016;
4. promoting sustainable travel to all Derbyshire's schools where at all possible, and within recognised resources. The Action Plan and delivery mechanisms for this will be detailed within the Strategy when published; and finally
5. publishing and updating the Strategy by 31 August of each year.