

Agenda Item No. 6(g)

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**31 January 2019**

Joint Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment  
and the Director – Public Health

**PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE  
(HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE)**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek Cabinet approval to transfer the School Crossing Patrol Service from the Economy, Transport and Environment Department to the Public Health Department.

(2) **Information and Analysis**

**Background**

At its meeting on 25 January 2018, Council approved proposals to make £12.4m of savings in the current financial year 2018-19. These included saving £300,000 from a review of the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) Service in 2018-19, subject to public consultation and equality analysis processes.

As part of this review process, and to help the Council explore a number of options, on 7 March 2018, the Council wrote to all schools and parish/town councils, where a SCP currently operates, to ask if they would be willing to fund their SCP or help to find alternative sources of funding, such as local businesses, sponsorship or fundraising. A follow up letter, to remind those schools, parish and town councils who had not responded to the original letter, was sent on 15 May 2018.

Whilst there was a relatively low response to these letters, it was evident that, whilst there was little scope for schools, towns and parish councils to actually fund the provision themselves, the service was highly valued by those who use it.

Due, in part, to the responses referred to above, Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 20 September 2018 not to undertake a review of the SCP service and to retain it in its current form, reflecting the genuine high regard for the service (Minute No. 228/18 refers).

As a consequence of this decision, internal discussions have since taken place between the Economy, Transport and Environment Department and the Public Health Department. These discussions have provided for the opportunity to integrate the SCP service within Public Health's Safe and Active Travel agenda.

Being physically active helps to improve physical and mental wellbeing and the Council wants to encourage and enable everyone in Derbyshire to become more active. A key element of this approach is safe and active travel that helps everyone to be able to build more physical activity into daily routines including enabling children to walk or cycle to school safely. Supporting children to actively journey to school promotes an active start in life and helps contribute to the cultural change needed to become an active society. Increasing safe and active travel to schools will form a key component of our response to reducing the one in three children in year 6 in schools in Derbyshire who are overweight or obese.

Improvements in the provision and promotion of safe travel options to schools can also play a significant role in improving air quality both around schools and in communities.

It is proposed this transfer will take place at the start of the new 2019-2020 financial year and be funded by Public Health for a minimum of three years up to and including 2021-2022.

(3) **Financial Considerations** From 1 April 2019, the costs of providing the Service will be partially met from a budget transfer from the Economy, Transport and Environment Department to the Public Health Department, and the remaining costs met from the ring fenced Public Health Grant.

(4) **Human Resource Considerations** Subject to approval of the recommendations contained within this report, informal discussions with affected employees and trade unions within Public Health and Economy, Transport and Environment departments will commence at an early stage. The dialogue will continue as appropriate to ensure that the transition is effective and integration is successful.

### **Other Considerations**

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

(5) **Key Decision** No.

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

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

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That Cabinet approves the transfer of the School Crossing Patrol Service from the Economy, Transport and Environment Department to the Public Health Department with effect from 1 April 2019.

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

**Dean Wallace**  
**Director of Public Health**