

Report to: Environment Panel
Children and Young People's Panel
Cabinet

Date: 19 November 2008
15 January 2009
22 January 2009

Subject: Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy

Report of: Executive Director - Environmental Services
Executive Director - Children and Young People's
Services

Contact officer: Carmel Foster-Devine 01942 404687

Purpose / summary: To inform Members and gain their approval of the Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: None – Duty placed on us by the Education and Inspectors Act 2006

Recommendation / decision: That the Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy be adopted as Council Policy.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 3 February 2009

Risks / Implications:

Financial: CYPS receive a Grant of £23,113 annually to deliver the strategy

Staffing: Within existing resources in CYPS and Environmental Services

Policy:
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted? Yes

Wards affected: All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A full diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix to this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

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|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Categorisation of the report: | X |
| | |
| Discussion leading to a decision | |
| Monitoring | |
| Sharing for corporate understanding | |

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| | X |
| | |
| Discussion | |
| Decision | X |
| Information | |

Tracking/Process:

| | Consultation | Ward Members | Partners |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------|
| | | | |
| Panel | Overview & Scrutiny | Cabinet | Council |
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There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Martin Kimber
Nick Hudson

Date 4 November 2008

1.0 Background:

- 1.1 Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (E&I Act) places a statutory duty on local authorities to actively promote the use of sustainable travel and transport for children and young people of sixth form age and below.
- 1.2 This 'Sustainable Modes of Travel to Schools' (SMoTS) Strategy is aimed at encouraging children and young people in the borough to change their behaviours and attitudes and actively promote walking, cycling and using public transport for journeys to and from school or other educational establishments.
- 1.3 Environmental Services and Children and Young People Services are jointly responsible for the delivery of this Strategy, which will be reviewed annually and measured against the targets set out in NI 198.

2.0 Proposals:

- 2.1 The Strategy is a statement of the overall vision, objectives and work programme for improving accessibility to schools. The underlying aspiration of the Strategy is to provide parents and young people with contemporary guidance and information on the availability of sustainable travel options. A copy of the Strategy is appended to this report.
- 2.2 The Strategy objectives are to:
 - Provide teachers, parents and young people with information on sustainable travel choices;
 - Reduce the number of car based trips to educational sites;
 - Ensure the infrastructure to all educational sites does not deter access by walking, cycling or the use of public transport;
 - improve child road safety; and,
 - improve the health of children by encouraging physical activity.
- 2.3 This Strategy is a 'working document' and as such, will be subject to continuous development and improvement on an annual basis. There is an action plan within the Strategy which will also be updated annually.
- 2.4 In August 2008 Sustainable School Travel leaflets were distributed to all schools and colleges in the Borough detailing sustainable ways to get to each establishment. These leaflets are to be used to distribute with school prospectuses to encourage more active travel. A website www.wigan.gov.uk/schooltravel has also been set up where information on walking, cycling and the use of public transport in relation to school and college journeys can be found.
- 2.5 Marketing and publicity is vital for the success of this Strategy and hence this will form an important element of the action plan each year.

3.0 Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:

3.1 No alternative options have been considered as this is a duty placed on Authorities by the Education and Inspectors Act 2006

4.0 Conclusions:

4.1 The implementation of this Strategy will not only improve the physical well-being of young people in the Borough but also improve the environmental well-being of the Borough.

4.2 Encouraging young people, their parents and carers and teachers and school staff to become more active cuts across many emerging agendas and fits within several existing Council Strategies and Policies. It is therefore, considered that this Strategy and the partnership working that will emerge from it is vital to achieving a more active Borough.

4.3 In conclusion, it is recommended that Members approve the adoption of the Strategy and the action plan.