

TO: PLANNING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

DATE: 21 May 2014

BY: KEITH TAYLOR, CHAIRMAN PLANNING &
REGULATORY COMMITTEE

PURPOSE: FOR DECISION

TITLE: TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR SCHOOLS PLACE PROGRAMME

SUMMARY REPORT

This report details the work of the Committee's task group established in November 2013 to oversee the development of a transport strategy for Surrey County Council's schools place programme. The report recommends the Children & Education and Environment & Transport Select Committees are invited to comment on the accompanying strategy prior to a three month public consultation between July and September 2014.

INTRODUCTION

1. At its meeting 13 November 2013 the Planning & Regulatory Committee agreed to establish a task group to oversee the development of a transport strategy for Surrey County Council's schools place programme - more than 18,000 additional school places over the next 10 years, with capital investment of £354 million planned for 2013 – 2019.
2. Membership of the task group was agreed as follows: Keith Taylor (Chair), Jonathan Essex, Margaret Hicks (also representing the Local Committee Chairmen), George Johnson and Richard Wilson.

THE STRATEGY

Work of the task group

3. The task group met six times between November 2013 and March 2014 and received evidence from a range of sources. A list of those who helped with the development of the strategy is provided at annex 3 of the strategy document.
4. The objectives of the accompanying strategy are to maximise the choices available to children as to how they travel and to minimise the impact of school growth on

local residents and businesses. In order to achieve these objectives the strategy focuses on five areas: travel planning; walk and cycle to school routes; school design and access; public transport; and parking on and off school sites.

5. The strategy also details improvements to the process of identifying and funding transport mitigation measures for school expansions, and lists the roles and responsibilities of those involved. Many of these improvements can be, and have been, made immediately.

Next steps

6. In order to adopt this strategy as part of Surrey's Local Transport Plan (LTP3) an agreed draft will be subject to a period of public consultation. A final version of the strategy, to take on board comments received during the consultation, will be considered by the Planning & Regulatory Committee Autumn 2014 before the strategy is considered for adoption by Surrey County Council's Cabinet.
7. The strategy will be owned by the Programme Delivery Board for the school place programme with the Planning & Development Group Manager, a member of that board, responsible for ensuring the actions are implemented. It is proposed a report is taken to the Planning & Regulatory Committee in autumn 2015 in order to review progress and the impact of the strategy.

CONCLUSIONS

8. In order to develop this strategy the task group has heard evidence from a wide range of sources, both internal and external, learning from good practice in Surrey and across the country. Task group members' own experience as local elected members, members of the Planning & Regulatory Committee and other relevant activities such as acting as school governors, have informed the strategy. While recognising the constraints of the county in terms of land use, existing congestion problems and competing priorities, the strategy proposes a range of actions that will help to mitigate the impact of necessary school expansions on the local transport network.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Children & Education and Environment & Transport Select Committees are invited to comment on the transport strategy for schools place programme
 2. A three month public consultation is held on the strategy document to enable its adoption as part of Surrey's Local Transport Plan
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CONTACTS

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annex A- Transport strategy for Surrey's schools place programme

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