

**CABINET RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE****TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR SURREY'S SCHOOLS PLACE PROGRAMME  
(considered by E&TSC on 12 June 2014)****SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning agree with colleagues a set of procedures to make it possible for detailed school planning applications, including school travel plans, to be submitted to Planning Committees well in advance of required works. These procedures should also enable Local Committees to be consulted before the plans are submitted.

**RESPONSE**

The five key Services in delivering the schools place programme (Education, Property, Planning, Procurement and Finance) have been working together to develop new and better ways of working in order to deliver the school place programme in a more efficient and timely manner. This includes such measures as:

- Earlier involvement of Planning and Transport Development Planning in the decision making process as to which schools to be expanded and how.
- Earlier identification of appropriate mitigation measures necessary to reduce the impact of a school expanding.
- Good quality planning application made first time.
- Travel planning brought in house to be prepared by our travel planning team that already work with our schools which will result in detailed travel plans prepared in advance and submitted to the Planning Committee with the application.
- Monitoring of planning permissions to ensure compliance with approvals.
- Sharing of data with teams across Environment and Infrastructure to ensure a joined up approach with other programmes.

Local committees are not consultees on planning applications, as this would add delays to the process, resulting in the inability to deliver school places on time. In order to keep Members fully involved and informed, the following measures will be implemented:

- The latest Schools Expansion Tracker spreadsheet that sets out the whole programme will be sent to all Members by the end of June. This will inform Members of what is proposed in their divisions. It is important for all Members to be aware that the information contained within the spreadsheet must be treated as confidential.
- Twice a year (Autumn and Spring) the relevant Schools Commissioning Officer will attend the informal private Local Committees to discuss the schools expansion programme with Members in the context of the education rationale for expansion. Two weeks prior to this the latest Schools Expansion Tracker will be sent to Members.
- Local Committee Chairmen can invite the Schools Commissioning Officers to discuss specific issues relating to proposed expansions as and when they arise.

**Mike Goodman**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning**  
**24 June 2014**

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