



**WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 26 SEPTEMBER 2018  
**LEAD OFFICER:** REBECCA HARRISON, SAFER TRAVEL TEAM LEADER  
**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS – ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT  
**AREA:** WOKING

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

A School Travel Plan sets out objectives and actions that the school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the car. Since 2017 the county council's Safer Travel Team have promoted a new national online system called Modeshift STARS [www.modeshiftstars.org](http://www.modeshiftstars.org) which provides an online template and supporting materials for schools to create a School Travel Plan.

This report provides an update on the status of each School Travel Plan for schools in Woking Borough, as well as the take up of activities offered to schools by the county council's Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams over the last academic year. It also highlights those schools that have expanded and are currently in breach of their planning obligations because they have not yet completed an accredited School Travel Plan.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Woking Joint Committee is asked to note:

- (i) The county council's Safer Travel Team will continue to encourage and support all Surrey's expansion schools to complete and maintain their School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS system.
- (ii) From 2018/19, the Safer Travel Team will also encourage all Surrey's schools to create a School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS accreditation system. This will involve promotion and the offer of training and support to all schools.
- (iii) Members are invited to assist by encouraging schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, and to take up the activities offered by the Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams to improve road safety and encourage sustainable travel.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Successful implementation of School Travel Plans will lead to improvements in road safety and more sustainable travel on school journeys. This will reduce congestion, improve air quality, and active travel will improve the health of children.

## 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

### What is a School Travel Plan?

- 1.1 A School Travel Plan sets out objectives and actions that the school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the car. This is achieved through education, training and encouragement, and can also be supported through highway engineering improvements, and enforcement. This has long-term health benefits, reduces air pollution and traffic congestion, and helps children arrive at school awake, refreshed and ready to learn.
- 1.2 The Travel Planning Strategy forms part of the Surrey Local Transport Plan and notes:

“The county council acknowledges that increasing the proportion of school children that are walking and cycling to school potentially increases the number of vulnerable road users. However, investment in pedestrian and cycle training, as well as initiatives such as the walking bus, can help to reduce the risk of child casualties on the school journey. Furthermore, school travel planning measures can contribute to a reduction in the number of vehicles on the road, particularly in the immediate vicinity of schools, which can also reduce the instances of conflict between pedestrians and cars at busy times of the day.”

### What is Modeshift STARS?

- 1.3 Since 2017 the county council’s Safer Travel Team have promoted a new national online system called Modeshift STARS [www.modeshiftstars.org](http://www.modeshiftstars.org). This system is supported by the Department for Transport. The Modeshift STARS website provides an online template and supporting materials for schools to create a School Travel Plan. It also provides automated alerts to the School Travel Plan Champion within each school to remind them when monitoring and updates are required. Appendix 1 shows the list of activities and interventions that schools can choose to undertake to achieve their accreditation.



- 1.4 Once a School Travel Plan is completed and verified by county council officers, the school are presented with a nationally recognised Bronze, Silver or Gold award. For example the photo below shows Cabinet Member Mary Lewis presenting the Modeshift STARS Bronze award to New Monument Primary Academy, Woking, in July 2018. The system motivates and assists schools to complete their School Travel Plan and ensures that plans are monitored, updated and completed to a high, verifiable standard. Within Surrey, so far there are 30 schools that have achieved Bronze level awards.

## **School Travel Planning at Expansion Schools**

- 1.5 The schools expansion programme was implemented as a result of the increased birth rate in Surrey and thus the need for more school places. Since the academic year 2012/13 the county council has provided approximately 16,000 new school places with an expansion programme being implemented at most state maintained schools across the county right through to the year 2021. For the majority, School Travel Plans form part of the planning conditions schools must discharge before expansion is granted. There is also a requirement for these expansions to be monitored for a further five years (which is the same as other types of property development).
- 1.6 Over the last year the Safer Travel Team have been encouraging expansion schools to create their School Travel Plans using the online Modeshift STARS system and have provided training and guidance to achieve this. Over the new academic year the team will begin proactively inviting all schools to develop a school travel plan using Modeshift STARS and will be offering training and support to assist in this.

## **2. ANALYSIS:**

2.1 The table in Appendix 2 shows the status of each School Travel Plan in Woking's Schools, as well as the take up of activities provided by the county council's Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams over the last academic year. It also highlights those schools that have expanded and whether they have yet completed an accredited School Travel Plan. The activities provided by the county council's Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams include:

- Reception: Road Safety Play Box – Toys and games related to traffic or road safety.
- Golden Boot Challenge – Month long inter-class competition involving whole school to improve levels of sustainable travel.
- Living Streets Walk Once a Week (WOW) campaign. This is a year-long challenge for the whole school to increase walking levels and is delivered by the charity Living Streets with funding provided from the Department for Transport Access Fund targeted at 60 schools in Surrey over three years.
- Pedals – Bike and scooter playground training for years 1/2.
- Bikeability Learn to ride – training for any age to start riding a bike
- Bikeability Levels 1, 2 – National standard cycle instruction (on and off road) for years 4 to 6.
- School Speed Watch – Student lead roadside education for speeding drivers.
- Whole School: ECO Schools and Ashden Award – Award scheme for schools that complete Eco and Sustainable challenges in a variety of topics including transport.
- Park Smart – Student lead parking “enforcement” using a polite notice left on cars to encourage considerate parking by parents, carried out in conjunction with local police.

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- Air Quality Grant – The Safer Travel Team will be rolling out a programme of educational measures to schools who are in or near to an air quality management area. This programme will begin in September 2018 and is funded by DEFRA and will include Theatre in Education drama workshops, a media campaign, curriculum resources and subsidised cycle training.
- The Safer Travel Team are also developing a new self-funding Pedestrian Awareness course to be piloted in the autumn term and then offered to schools for a fee (charged to parents).
- Theatre in Education – Performance based education about travelling to school independently and dealing with distractions and the impact of road traffic incidents. To be offered in 2018/19.

2.2 It can be seen from the data in Annex 2 that Woking has 25 primary schools and 4 secondary schools. Of these, 13 primary schools have expanded, and three of these have yet to complete an accredited School Travel Plan:

- Goldsworth Primary School
- West Byfleet Infant School
- St John the Baptist Catholic Comprehensive School

2.3 It is possible the above schools are undertaking a number of road safety and sustainable travel activities, but these have not been detailed, and monitored within a School Travel Plan. Consequently these schools are currently in breach of their planning obligations and they have been advised of this by the county council's Planning Enforcement Officers. They have been advised that any future planning applications associated with the school are likely to be refused if they do not complete a School Travel Plan.

### **3. OPTIONS:**

3.1 The Safer Travel Team will continue to encourage and support all Surrey's expansion schools to complete and maintain their School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS system.

3.2 From 2018/19, the Safer Travel Team will encourage all other schools in Surrey to create a School Travel Plan using the online Modeshift STARS system. This will involve promotion and the offer of training and support to all schools.

3.3 Members are invited to assist by encouraging schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, and to take up the activities offered by the Safer Travel Team to improve road safety and encourage sustainable travel.

### **4. CONSULTATIONS:**

4.1 The county council's Safer Travel Team work closely with the county council's Schools Expansion Team and Transport Development Planning officers to support schools to complete their School Travel Plans. The team are in regular contact with Surrey's schools to offer a range of training and interventions to support road safety and sustainable travel.

**5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 Promotion of sustainable travel to school helps reduce congestion on Surrey's road network at peak times and helps improve the local economy by improving journey time reliability and commuting times for businesses.

**6. RISK MANAGEMENT:**

6.1 Successful implementation of School Travel Plans that include road safety interventions will reduce the risk of collisions resulting in personal injury.

**7. LOCALISM:**

7.1 The school community, local residents and businesses are negatively affected by traffic associated with the school journey. School Travel Plans are important tool to mitigate the effects of school traffic and demonstrate to residents and business owners that the school and county council is taking action to decrease congestion, road danger and pollution, which is especially important at schools that have expanded.

**8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:**

8.1 The interventions which promote road safety and sustainable travel may not be suitable for everyone in the school community due to cultural, mobility and learning differences. In these circumstances the team endeavour to tailor the interventions or offer alternatives to meet individual needs.

**9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	Set out below
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below
Public Health	Set out below
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

Sustainability implications

Supporting school communities to deliver and promote sustainable transport can reduce levels of congestion, pollution. Increased level of sustainable travel can reduce the financial implications of congestion upon the local economy by reducing commute times.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

Surrey County Council gives schools and parents discretion to exclude pupils from events and activities promoting sustainable travel through the Travel Plan if reasonable steps cannot be taken to safeguard vulnerable children or adults.

[www.woking.gov.uk](http://www.woking.gov.uk)  
[www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking)

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### Public Health implications

Increased sustainable and active travel to school can positively tackle obesity and other related illnesses. Studies suggest that travelling to school actively can improve mental wellbeing and improve concentration levels at school.

### **10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 10.1 A School Travel Plan sets out objectives and actions that the school will undertake to improve road safety and promote sustainable travel modes to reduce reliance on the car. Since 2017 the county council's Safer Travel Team have promoted a new online system called Modeshift STARS [www.modeshiftstars.org](http://www.modeshiftstars.org) which provides a template and supporting materials to help schools create and update their School Travel Plans.
- 10.2 Over the last year the Safer Travel Team have focussed their resources on encouraging expansion schools to create their School Travel Plans using the online Modeshift STARS system. Over the new academic year the team will begin proactively inviting all other schools to develop a School Travel Plan using Modeshift STARS and will be offering training and support to schools to assist in this.
- 10.3 Members are invited to assist in the above by encouraging schools to sign up to Modeshift STARS, and to take up the activities offered by the Safer Travel Team to improve road safety and encourage sustainable travel.

### **11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- 11.1 The Safer Travel Team will proactively contact all schools in September to invite them to complete a school travel plan and to take up sustainable travel and road safety initiatives offered by the Safer Travel and Cycle Training Teams.

**Contact Officer:** Rebecca Harrison, Safer Travel Team Leader – Surrey County Council

**County Council Cabinet Members:** Mike Goodman, Colin Kemp, Mary Lewis

#### **Appendices:**

- Appendix One: Modeshift STARS list of interventions  
Appendix Two: Summary of School Travel Plans and Interventions in Woking Schools During Academic Year 2017/18

#### **Sources/background papers:**

- Travel Planning Strategy, Surrey County Council – 2010  
School Travel Strategy, Surrey County Council - 2012  
Travel Plan Good Practice Guide, Surrey County Council - 2018