This report proposes that a member task and finish group is established to oversee the development of a transport strategy for the schools expansion programme.

INTRODUCTION

1. Surrey County Council’s Schools Basic Need Expansion Programme aims to deliver 16,000 additional schools places over the next 10 years, with capital investment of £354 million planned between 2013 and 2019.

2. Residents and members are concerned about the impact of the schools expansion programme on road safety and congestion. Investing in Surrey roads and reducing congestion is a priority for Surrey County Council, as is providing additional schools places.

3. There are a number of strategies and policies which consider transport issues relating to schools. A strategy is needed to pull these together and to identify and evidence the measures being taken to mitigate the impact of necessary school expansions on the local transport system.

SCOPING DOCUMENT FOR TASK AND FINISH GROUP

4. It is proposed that a member task and finish group is established to steer and advise on the development of this transport strategy for the schools expansion programme. The scoping document for this task and finish group is provided at annex 1.
5. The task and finish group would oversee the development of the strategy over the next three months. The strategy could then be considered by the Planning & Regulatory Committee in February 2014, prior to its adoption by Cabinet as part of Surrey’s Local Transport Plan (LTP3).

6. The content of the strategy would be agreed by the task and finish group but it is envisaged that it would consist of two parts, with part one detailing the general principles to underpin how we work across the county council to mitigate the impacts of school expansion on the local transport system, and part two looking at specific issues, improvements and proposed schemes in local areas. The strategy would refer to both hard and soft measures, i.e. both infrastructure improvements and behaviour change initiatives.

CONCLUSIONS

7. Surrey County Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the county, and a duty to promote the use of sustainable modes of travel to meet school travel needs. A transport strategy for the schools expansion programme would help to address residents’ and members’ concerns about the impact of the programme on road safety and congestion.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree to establish a task and finish group to oversee the development of a transport strategy for the schools expansion programme.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Surrey’s Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Travel Planning Strategy
Surrey’s Local Transport Plan (LTP3) Parking Strategy
Surrey County Council Vehicular and Cycle Parking Guidance January 2012
Surrey County Council School Organisation Plan 2011 - 2021