

Report

Report to:	Community and Enterprise Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 August 2018
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	Pass Plus
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ provide the Committee with background into the subsidised Pass Plus Scheme within South Lanarkshire.
- ◆ seek approval to increase the subsidy given to applicants

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that an increase to the Pass Plus subsidy from £75 to £100 be approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. In order to provide newly qualified drivers with the necessary skills and knowledge to cope with varying road conditions, South Lanarkshire Council launched the Pass Plus subsidised scheme on 26 July 2007.
- 3.2. The Pass Plus road safety initiative aims to assist newly qualified drivers to gain valuable driving experience, which builds on the existing skills and knowledge gained during training for their Learner Driver Test. The topics covered in this project are driving in town, all weather driving, driving out of town, night driving, driving on dual carriageways and driving on motorways.
- 3.3. The current subsidy of £75 towards the total cost of Pass Plus training aims to encourage more newly qualified drivers to participate in this initiative.
- 3.4. The subsidy of £75 has remained the same since the subsidised Pass Plus Scheme was launched in South Lanarkshire in 2007. The initial cost of the scheme, as at 2007, was approximately £120. Following the Roads Safety Forum Meeting on 27 February 2018, it was agreed that officers would review the level of subsidy on offer against the cost of the initiative. Contact was subsequently made with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency who confirmed the current cost of the Pass Plus scheme is £150.

3.5. The uptake of Pass Plus has reduced in recent years as illustrated below:-

Participants in Pass Plus Scheme											
Year	2007/ 08	2008/ 09	2009/ 10	2010/ 11	2011/ 12	2012/ 13	2013/ 14	2014/ 15	2015/ 16	2016 /17	2017 /18
	175	271	182	265	196	156	146	150	105	74	59

3.6. At the Council's Roads Safety Forum of 15 May 2018, discussions considered possible reasons for the decline in participants of the scheme.

3.7. A comparison of other participating Councils' Pass Plus subsidies within Scotland are as follows:-

- ◆ Argyll and Bute - £75. Cost of scheme fluctuates between £150 to £250 due to increased cost of travel to reach motorways
- ◆ Inverclyde currently offer 50% of the cost of the course up to a maximum of £80.
- ◆ Fife - £90. Pass Plus costs approximately £130 in this Council area.

3.8. The following nearby local authorities do not offer any subsidy towards the cost of Pass Plus: - Glasgow City, North Lanarkshire, West Lothian and Renfrewshire.

3.9. While cost alone is not the sole reason for the reduced uptake, in order to stimulate the scheme and encourage more newly qualified drivers to participate in Pass Plus, it is proposed to increase the subsidy from £75 to £100 towards the total cost of £150.

3.10. This proposal was supported by the Road Safety Forum at its meeting on 15 May 2018.

4. Employee Implications

4.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

5 Financial Implications

5.1. Funding for this financial year 2018/19 Pass Plus Scheme will be met by the South Lanarkshire Community Safety Partnership who have allocated £7,000. Should demand exceed the available funding, consideration will be given to utilising the Road Safety Revenue Budget.

6. Other Implications

6.1. There are no significant risks associated with this report, nor any environmental implications.

6.2. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.

7. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

7.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore, no impact assessment is required.

- 7.2. Consultation on the effectiveness of the initiative was completed by participants and results are available from the Traffic and Transportation Section.

Michael McGlynn
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

11 July 2018

Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and support aspiration
- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable

Previous References

- ◆ Road Safety Forum 15 May 2018

List of Background Papers

- ◆ None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like inspect any of the background papers or want any further information, please contact: - Stuart Laird, Roads and Transportation Services
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