

# Report

Report to:	<b>Roads Safety Forum</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>8 August 2019</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>School Travel Plans</b>
----------	----------------------------

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Forum of the School Travel Plan programme within South Lanarkshire.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that the contents of the report are noted and the development of future School Travel Plans are supported.

## 3. Background

3.1. The aim of School Travel Plans is to encourage more sustainable modes of travel, such as walking and cycling, hence reducing congestion outside schools and increasing safety, improving health and environmental awareness, ultimately setting active travel plans for life. The local context, including pupil travel patterns, is researched and presented in the plan. This then allows appropriate solutions to be identified and targets for implementation to be set. The process puts the onus on pupils, parents and teachers to monitor the travel situation and to develop appropriate aims and identify targets and timescales for action. The Plan is an active document with a monitoring regime included, so the progress of any measures can be followed, and new ones added as it continues to develop.

3.2. At present, there are 69 schools that have completed a travel plan and a further 64 schools are currently working towards completing their travel plan. This shows a minor increase in the number of completed and developing travel plans since the last report. The School Travel Plan Co-ordinator also works with schools to review and update existing School Travel Plans. A list of schools and School Travel Plan status is available as a background paper.

## 4. The School Travel Plan Process

4.1. The Council's School Travel Plan Co-ordinator contacts all schools on a regular basis to engage with the school community. The co-ordinator will initially arrange to meet with a school representative to discuss the School Travel Plan process as well as potential issues and associated availability of resources.

4.2. The School Travel Plan Process was detailed fully in a School Travel Plan paper at a previous meeting of the Road Safety Forum held on 10 October 2018.

## **5. School Travel Plan – 5 STEPS to Completion Award**

- 5.1. This award will be introduced as part of the School Travel Plan process. Schools will be encouraged to complete the five steps towards their first School Travel Plan or their review, as detailed below:-
1. Start with a meeting with your School Travel Plan Co-ordinator.
  2. Talk about different initiatives and resources available for your school.
  3. Engage with parents, pupils and staff to complete questionnaires.
  4. Plan initiatives and targets for implementation.
  5. School Travel Plan complete, implemented and reviewed.
- 5.2. On completion of the 5 STEPS, a certificate and a banner will be awarded to each school. The display of these awards will demonstrate the school's commitment and partnership working with parents, pupils and staff in a bid to encourage safe and sustainable travel to and from school.
- 5.3. Additional items will be made available to support and promote School Travel Plan development. This includes a parental information flyer, pupil stickers and a '5 STEPS to a School Travel Plan' school leaflet.

## **6. School Travel Plan Initiatives**

### **6.1. Walk to School Week (21 to 24 May 2019)**

All schools in South Lanarkshire are encouraged to participate in Living Streets National Walk to School which takes place annually in May. The Living Streets website hosts a variety of resources that schools can use to help them ensure that their Walk to School Week plans are a great success.

### **6.2. WOW – Walk On Wednesday or Walk Once a Week**

The WOW scheme is offered to Primary 5 pupils as pupils within this age group are typically becoming more independent travellers. Schools register their participation at the beginning of August and then receive a Record of Achievement sheet to cover all the school terms. This allows pupils to mark their participation during the August to December and January to June sessions. Pupils who have participated will receive a reward twice a year, such as a pencil or reflector. 47 schools participated from August 2018 to Summer 2019 with approximately 1700 pupils taking part. An invitation has been sent out to all primary schools to participate in the 2019/2020 academic term.

### **6.3. Starting School**

The road safety leaflet titled 'Starting School' is provided for all primary schools prior to Primary 1 enrolment week in January. This is then distributed to parents. This booklet covers a variety of important points including stop, look and listen, safer crossing places, school gate parking, park and stride and includes a fun activity poster inside.

### **6.4. Sustrans Cycle Parking Funding**

Sustrans Cycle and Scooter Parking Funding is available for local authorities to apply for 50% match funding. A successful bid was submitted during 2018 allowing installations at the following four schools during academic year 2018/2019:-

- ◆ Crawforddyke Primary School – 6 cycle hoops, 40 scooter parking spaces and a shelter
- ◆ Cathkin High School – A shelter and parking for 24 bikes

- ◆ High Blantyre Primary School – 16 cycle hoops, 20 scooter parking spaces and a shelter
- ◆ Hunter Primary School – 5 cycle hoops, 10 scooter parking spaces and a shelter

A further match funding bid has been submitted to Sustrans for the 2019/2020 academic term. This will provide additional storage or a shelter to complement existing cycle and scooter provision at the following establishments:- Newfield Primary School and Nursery, Stonehouse, Park View Primary School, Cambuslang, and St. John's Primary School, Blackwood. Schools are prioritised based on their School Travel Plan activity and potential to support and increase sustainable travel to and from school.

## **7. Sustrans Hands Up Scotland Survey**

- 7.1. All nurseries and schools are invited to take part in the Annual Travel Survey – Hands Up Scotland Survey. This survey requires to be completed on any one day during the second week of September with information entered to an online portal organised by Sustrans. Sustrans, the UK's leading sustainable transport charity, then uses the data to collate a report on school travel across Scotland for the Scottish Government. Following the passing of a Parliamentary Order on 1 June 2012, Hands Up Scotland Survey has been published as Official Statistic status in Scotland.
- 7.2. The Hands Up Scotland Summary Survey 2018 Official Statistic is available with the results showing 504,889 school and nursery children taking part in the survey. This involved 3,007 schools and nurseries taking part.
- 7.4. 105 local authority primary schools, 15 secondary schools, 6 ASN's, 2 Private schools and 66 nurseries made a data return for 2018. This shows a slight reduction in participation when compared to data returns made for the previous year.
- 7.3. Full local authority level data is provided by Sustrans annually and will be made available as an Excel spreadsheet at the end of July 2019. The data will then be interrogated. This data is used for inclusion in School Travel Plans, for evidence for Sustrans funding bids and as a tool for schools to use to monitor travel modes.

## **8. Employee Implications**

- 8.1. The School Travel Plan process involves working in partnership with schools, pupils and parents. The School Travel Plan Co-ordinator offers initial and ongoing support and guidance to the school which presently accounts for 40% of the officer's working time.

## **9. Financial Implications**

- 9.1. Promotional items and engineering works are funded from a variety of internal sources such as the Roads Revenue budget and external partners such as Road Safety Scotland and Sustrans.

## **10. Other Implications**

- 10.1. There are no implications for sustainability in terms of the information contained within this report.
- 10.2. There are no significant risks associated with this report.

## **11. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 11.1. 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.
- 11.2. Consultation information in relation to School Travel Plan is undertaken through parent, pupil and staff questionnaires.

**Michael McGlynn**  
**Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)**

5 July 2019

### **Link(s) to Council Values/Ambitions/Objectives**

- ◆ Make communities safer, stronger and sustainable
- ◆ Protect vulnerable children, young people and adults
- ◆ Support our communities by tackling disadvantage and deprivation and supporting aspiration
- ◆ Get it right for children and young people
- ◆ Focused on people and their needs

### **Previous References**

- ◆ Roads Safety Forum 10 October 2018

### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ School Travel Plan Status Report

### **Contact for Further Information**

If you would like inspect any of the background papers or want any further information, please contact: -

Colin Smith, Assistant Road Safety Training Officer, Roads and Transportation Services  
Ext: 3757 (Tel: 01698 453757)

E-mail: [colin.smith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:colin.smith@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)