

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE#

Budget Saving £330k

This option proposes charging schools on a discretionary opt-in basis for the provision of school crossing patrols to assist children and adults on their journeys to/from schools to enable the service to be 'cost neutral' to the Council.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (section 508A) places a duty on Local Authorities to promote and encourage sustainable travel to/from school. The 1988 Road Traffic Act, Section 39, places Statutory Duty on the local authority to undertake studies into road accidents and to take steps both to reduce and prevent accidents.

The School Crossing Patrols (SCP) service supports these aims, however there is no statutory duty for local authorities to specifically provide a SCP service.

This service is undertaken broadly in line with the nationally recognised guidance issued by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) and the Criteria for patrols approved by Council in February 2009.

A saving of £330,000 could be realised if the service became self-funding with schools paying for the service if they choose to do so.

Analysis of the injury accident data recorded and provided by the Police shows that at sites where the Council has provided a School Crossing Patrol road safety is good.

IMPACT

Schools may decide not to prioritise the funding of school crossing patrols and this would result in the service ceasing at sites servicing their school.

Not all patrol sites operate directly outside a school, with some Patrols serving a wider community.

Where schools share the use of a Patrol and wish to continue to provide the service, a suitable arrangement for apportioning costs will be developed in conjunction with them.

The removal of a patrol which meets the Council's criteria may lead to additional road accidents/casualties.

Recruitment of staff into this service is recognised nationally as an issue, requiring continued effort.

A reduction of the School Crossing Patrol Service will impact on staffing levels.

MITIGATION

Schools would pay for the provision of School Crossing Patrols to enable the service to be 'cost neutral' to the Council. Technical Services would continue to provide the staff,

training, risk assessments/safety audits, uniform etc and would undertake recruitment for vacant sites to ensure that safety and standards are maintained.