



Highways Committee
11 October 2012

**Report from the Head of
Transportation**

For Action

Wards Affected: All

Travel Plans and Parking Permits for Schools

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with a progress report for the development of STPs (School Travel Plans).
- 1.2 This report also informs the Committee of the current position regarding the issue and renewal of special "School Parking Permits" and, as determined by the Executive Committee on 19 September 2012, their phased withdrawal.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.0 That the Committee notes the progress made on developing School Travel Plans.
- 2.1 That the Committee notes the decision by the Executive Committee on 19th Sept 2012 to adopt a phased withdrawal of School Parking Permits.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Although school travel plans are not a mandatory requirement, Brent Council actively supports and encourages all schools to produce a travel plan to encourage more walking, cycling, car sharing and public transport use and to review their plan on an annual basis.
- 3.2 A school travel plan must contain information about the school's location and public transport availability, along with a survey that identifies pupil's modes of travel to school. Through their travel plan the school is asked

to identify any problems outside the school and set targets to promote sustainable travel and reduce congestion.

- 3.3 Officers encourage all schools to annually review their travel plan and particularly target schools that participate in a WoW (Walk once a Week) scheme; have appointed JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers) or; that request parking permits or engineering measures.
- 3.4 As these initiatives are funded by the Council's capital budget from TFL we stipulate that participating schools must review their travel plan if the schemes are to continue.

4.0 Progress on School Travel Plans (STP)

- 4.1 This year, 43 schools submitted a travel plan and, of these, five will receive outstanding (gold) accreditation, two higher (silver), and 38 sustainable (bronze). Compared to last year's 25 schools this is an improvement of two outstanding, one higher and 17 sustainable.
- 4.2 Currently 90% of Brent schools have a travel plan approved by TFL but unfortunately they do not all review their plans annually. However, compared to last year, there has been a 5% increase in schools with active travel plans.
- 4.3 At the beginning of this school year, a new online system was introduced, which has produced time savings and has helped simplify the process. Officers are still available to support schools and provide guidance relating to their travel plan development and implementation.
- 4.4 In order to encourage more schools to review their STP, the Schools Safer Roads scheme (subject to the confirmation of funding) will only be available to schools that have carried out an approved plan review. The scheme aims to make the area outside the school safer for pupils by targeting parking issues which are a major problem outside some Brent schools. This is achieved by incorporating education and enforcement.
- 4.5 Also, officers are working closely with Brent's Healthy Schools Co-ordinator to potentially award a small grant to schools that both review their STP & achieve Healthy School status. This initiative is at an early stage but the target is to have this in place by April 2013

5.0 An Update on School Parking Permits

- 5.1 Special Parking Permits have been issued by Brent since 2008. They were originally introduced to those schools that:
 - Were experiencing difficulties recruiting teachers;
 - Have a current approved travel plan at bronze or higher standard;
 - Lie within a CPZ area; and
 - Do not have sufficient on site or local parking for staff needs.

- 5.2 Currently 157 permits are in circulation within 12 schools and the number of individual permits issued for a school ranges between 5 and 20.
- 5.3 The schools are responsible for the £75 charge per permit and for issuing individual permits. These permits are valid for one year, are for use by specific vehicles only, are restricted to the CPZ in which the school is located, and are not transferable.
- 5.4 At their meeting on 19th Sept 2012, the Executive Committee considered proposals to rationalise and simplify permit charges and issuance throughout the Borough. The availability of school permits was considered as part of this process and, as a result, Members resolved to withdraw the current school permit scheme in a phased manner.
- 5.6 To incentivise travel plan improvements and provide an opportunity for schools to “phase out” their use of special school permits, it is proposed that if a school with existing permits achieves Silver STP standard by October 2013; that school will be allowed to renew two-thirds of their existing permits for a further 24 months. After that period, any schools that achieve Gold STP standard by October 2015 will have a final option to renew one half of any remaining permits for a further 12 month period. This reduction is intended to reflect the schools commitment to sustainable travel and reduce the number of journeys using private cars.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The approval of the recommendations set out in this report would see a loss of £12,000 to the parking account, however it is difficult to predict when this loss will occur as it will be dependant on schools decisions between now and 2016. Other than minor resourcing changes, there are no financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 Diversity Implications

- 8.1 This report is for information only. Members are not being asked to make any decisions therefore there are no diversity implications.

9.0 Background Papers

None

Contact Officers

Debbie Huckle – Transportation Unit 2nd Floor West, Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA2 8TT. Telephone: 020 8937 5570

Email: debbie.huckle@brent.gov.uk

Paul Chandler – Head of Transportation, 2nd Floor West, Brent House, 349-357 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex, HA2 8TT. Telephone: 020 8937 5151.
Email: paul.chandler@brent.gov.uk

