

## Appendix 4

# Cheshire East Council: Special Meeting

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**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017**

**Report of:** Cllr Liz Durham, Children and Families Portfolio Holder

**Subject:** Walking Routes to Schools Update on Progress

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### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the actions taken to date to implement the decision taken by Cabinet on the 18 October 2016 – i.e. to note the re-classification of five routes to school as available to walk and subsequently remove free transport from those routes with effect from September 2017.
- 1.2 In line with the commitment from Cabinet to monitor implementation an update is also provided on the further consideration that has been given to other matters raised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### 2. Progress Update

- 2.1 A letter has been sent to all parents affected by the decision to inform them that their child's route to school will no longer qualify for free transport from September 2017. The letter provided information on other criteria for free transport and advised of their right of appeal.

34 requests were received, but these all requested that the Cabinet decision was overturned. Parents were provided with further clarification that the appeals process cannot overturn the decision of Cabinet but could resubmit an appeal based on any personal circumstances. The deadline for appeals was extended until 31 January 2017. At the time of this report 2 applications have been received.

- 2.2 Progress on changes agreed by Cabinet on 18 October 2016

Agreed Action	Update	
<b>1. Highway improvements approved for implementation by September 2017.</b>		
Repair potholes on the Middlewood Way	Potholes have now been repaired. Maintenance of the Middlewood Way is on-going.	G
Install signage to improve visibility of Toucan crossing on A500,	A review of the visibility of the Toucan crossing and the following steps will be undertaken to improve the facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cut back vegetation on junction of A500 and B5074 to</li></ul>	A

Agreed Action	Update	
Nantwich.	<p>improve visibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect warning signs on all approaches to roundabout</li> <li>• Alterations to the tactile paving</li> </ul> <p>Work to be completed by March 2017. Target cost for works is £10,000</p>	
Switch lighting back on Newcastle Road	Lighting is now switched on	G
Review speed limit on Newcastle Road	Speed limit under review - currently out for 21 day consultation period.	A
<b>2. The provision of a subsidy towards the cost of transport for those children currently in receipt of free transport until they either conclude their education at their current school or move to another school</b>		
Discussions to take place with regard to innovative solutions using the subsidy as a grant	Meetings have taken place with all five schools to discuss alternative innovative solutions. The only school that was interested in exploring innovative solutions was Malbank High School, but as a financial subsidy will be provided on the other four routes, it is felt likely that parents at Malbank High School would also prefer a financial subsidy. Further discussions will take place with Malbank High School but the agreement of all parents will be needed to take any ideas forward.	G
Subsidy to be made available towards the cost of transport for those children currently in receipt of free transport until they either conclude their education at their current school or move to another school	<p>It is proposed to make the subsidy available for those Children receiving Free Transport as at 31 December 2016 and still in receipt of free transport as at 31 May 2017.</p> <p>It is proposed to make a one off payment for the period of time a student has left at the school. The proposed payment for Secondary pupils will be £192/pupil/year. The proposed payment for Primary pupils will be £128/pupil/year.</p> <p>The payments to parents of children at Malbank may change subject to decision upon whether to use the subsidy to support some form of subsidised transport for a period of time.</p> <p>Information to be made available at end of February with details on the website. Letters to be sent to parents in March/April outlining arrangements to claim the subsidy</p> <p>Subsidy to be paid in June – July 2017.</p>	A
<b>3. Develop a Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy</b>		
Develop a Sustainable	This strategy is required by legislation to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory obligations regarding travel to	A

Agreed Action	Update	
Modes of Travel Strategy	<p>school.</p> <p>Ringway Jacobs have been commissioned to develop a Sustainable Modes of Travel to Schools strategy. The purpose of this strategy is to identify approaches to provide safe and sustainable travel to school.</p> <p>Four key tasks will be undertaken to inform the strategy. A brief summary of which is set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake surveys in collaboration with Cheshire East Research and Intelligence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Travel Plans - Survey to find out how many active school travel plans / initiatives (sample size 50 schools)</li> <li>• Further Education travel plans - Survey to find out how many active FE travel plans/initiatives (sample size 2-3)</li> <li>• Mode of Travel Survey - Selection of schools to complete 'usual mode of travel' data (500 – 1000 pupils)</li> <li>• Safer Route to School Survey - on-line safer routes to school survey (20 schools)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Develop the strategy, producing a 15-20 page document that outlines the Council's approach to improving and promoting safe and sustainable travel options to schools.</li> <li>3. Promote sustainable travel and transport to and from school by updating the Cheshire East Council website to reflect how schools can be involved.</li> <li>4. Publication of sustainable school travel strategy.</li> </ol> <p>In addition, the strategy will reference relevant Cheshire East guidance and strategy documents such as Cycling Strategy, Road Safety Strategy, Air Quality Strategy and the Local Transport Plan.</p> <p>The total commission estimated value is £10,000 (excluding VAT and framework overheads)</p>	

### 2.3 Highways improvements given further consideration

Agreed Action	Update	
<b>1. Additional improvements, as recommended by Overview and Scrutiny which would further improve the walking routes to school.</b>		
Install crossing on Silk Road	<p>In terms of further improving the walking route to school, by providing an alternative route, the feasibility of installing a toucan crossing on the A523 Silk Road at the junction with the B5090 has been examined. A Road Safety Audit (RSA) has been conducted.</p> <p>The installation of a crossing is estimated to cost in the region of £200k.</p>	A
<b>2. Install double barriers on level crossing on Nantwich Road.</b>		

Agreed Action	Update															
Install double barriers on level crossing on Nantwich Road	<p>A meeting was held on 21 December 2016 with Network Rail and Cllr Rachel Bailey, Cllr David Brown, Cllr Glen Williams, Cllr Pochin and officers to discuss improvements to the automatic half barrier (AHB) on London Road. The following actions were agreed, for which an update has been provided:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="571 448 1337 1263"> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 448 970 582">Install a full barrier with skirt</td> <td data-bbox="970 448 1337 582">The crossing is not due to be upgraded until 2029 and cost will be in region of £3.5m</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 582 970 716">Red lights for pedestrians to improve warning for pedestrians that trains are approaching</td> <td data-bbox="970 582 1337 716">Network Rail will look into the feasibility to install Summer 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 716 970 817">Increase the timing of the lighting sequence</td> <td data-bbox="970 716 1337 817">Network Rail will look into the feasibility of increasing the time</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 817 970 952">Provide guard rails to corral pedestrians to stay on pavements and possible widening of pavement</td> <td data-bbox="970 817 1337 952">Highways to carry out road safety audit to assess feasibility</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 952 970 1019">Improve boundary markings</td> <td data-bbox="970 952 1337 1019">Network Rail to consider feasibility</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 1019 970 1153">Leaflets to parents and presentations to Willaston Primary School and Malbank High School.</td> <td data-bbox="970 1019 1337 1153">Network Rail have programmed in talks for schools in July and September.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="571 1153 970 1263">Remove highway/leaf debris on footways</td> <td data-bbox="970 1153 1337 1263">Highways to programme in clearing up of debris</td> </tr> </table>	Install a full barrier with skirt	The crossing is not due to be upgraded until 2029 and cost will be in region of £3.5m	Red lights for pedestrians to improve warning for pedestrians that trains are approaching	Network Rail will look into the feasibility to install Summer 2017	Increase the timing of the lighting sequence	Network Rail will look into the feasibility of increasing the time	Provide guard rails to corral pedestrians to stay on pavements and possible widening of pavement	Highways to carry out road safety audit to assess feasibility	Improve boundary markings	Network Rail to consider feasibility	Leaflets to parents and presentations to Willaston Primary School and Malbank High School.	Network Rail have programmed in talks for schools in July and September.	Remove highway/leaf debris on footways	Highways to programme in clearing up of debris	A
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<b>3. Install lighting on Hindheath Road</b>																
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