

Council – 21 February 2024

Green Party Group Amendment to Budget 2024/25

School Streets Budget Amendment

School Streets are a vital tool for making our streets safer for our children. They build communities, improve health and make it easier for families to walk, wheel, and cycle to school.

This amendment supports the council's School Streets programme with a trial of enforcement by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras.

We thank the volunteers, school staff, officers and councillors who have supported our school streets so far, and note the conclusion of the Trafford School Street Update January 2024 that:

'Adopting a volunteer-based model offers lots of benefits in terms of education and community building in the short term but is unsustainable in the long term, and that ANPR is needed as a long term solution. The view is that ideally school streets would start with volunteers for a fixed period, e.g. 6 months, then followed by ANPR.'

According to a Freedom of Information request by Mums for Lungs, ANPR-backed school streets in London recoup the capital costs in the first year. This is via earnings from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs)). A trial is needed to see if this is the case in Trafford. If successful this trial could encourage and fund the wider roll-out of school streets around our borough, with the aim being to:

- Make the area a more pleasant place for residents to live.
- Reduce danger for children and adults on the school street.
- Reduce congestion on the School Street.
- Reduce pollution around the school entrance with fewer engines idling.
- Make it safer and easier to walk, cycle and take active journeys.
- Reduce bad parking and dangerous manoeuvres near the school.
- Create a calmer, quieter, safer and cleaner environment around our schools.

In order to expedite the use of ANPR technology in support of our existing school streets programme, this Council will:

- Provide a budget of up to £150,000 for an ANPR camera pilot on Trafford school streets.
- Fund the position of School Streets Officer from October 2024 to the end of March 2025 (following the end of TfGM funding of the role).

- Commit to borrowing of up to £150,000 for capital expenditure to cover the initial costs of the ANPR school streets pilot, the extension of the position of the School Streets Officer and associated administration and maintenance.
- The cost of the pilot, estimated at £38,000 per annum, is to be met by a combination of income generated from the scheme, and if necessary, additional car parking income generated after bringing forward the parking procedures and charges review that was planned for 2025.
- Work with TfGM and other funding bodies to secure grant funding as an alternative to funding the pilot by borrowing, and to secure resources for a further expansion of the school streets pilot.