

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Scrutiny Committee
Date: 16 March 2016
Report of: Corporate Director Economic Growth, Environment & Infrastructure

Report Title

School Crossing Patrol Service

Summary

Since the implementation of the budget recommendations there have been no complaints received in relation to the crossing points no longer funded. A number of crossing points have not been staffed (over various periods) due to the lack of staff. Significant efforts have been made to recruit new staff and it is anticipated the service will be fully staffed within April 2016. To ensure consistency of the service during staff sickness an application to retain 2 mobile patrol staff will be made once the service is fully recruited to the static patrol posts.

Recommendation(s)

To note the update.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: P. Valentine
Extension: 4301

Background Papers: 15-16 Budget report

1) Background

The provision of school crossing staff is not a statutory duty for councils, although we recognise that they can make a valuable contribution towards pupils' safe and sustainable travel to schools.

The implementation of the School Crossing Patrol (SCP) 15-16 budget proposal was to concentrate our reducing resources at sites where the maximum benefit would be achieved via implementation of the National Guidance published by Road Safety Great Britain (RSGB). Transport for Greater Manchester was commissioned to re-assess the status of our SCP Sites in line with the National Guidelines ensuring all decisions were evidenced based.

Also it has proved difficult over the years to recruit to school crossing posts. In addition to Trafford's on-line recruitment, adverts for School Crossing Patrol staff have been displayed in Trafford libraries, Community Centres and Schools, this resulted in a number of category B & C crossing not being staffed for over 10 months.

There are four categories of SCP Site as defined by the guidance:

- Category P: A SCP is justified at the site, though it is recommended that a signal controlled crossing is installed instead.
- Category A: A SCP is justified at the site.
- Category B: A SCP site is not initially justified but further factors (such as proximity to junctions and the age of the children using the crossing) may be considered and may potentially move the point into category A
- Category C: No justification for a SCP site unless exceptional circumstances exist

The guidance also states that where there is a fully automatic traffic signal (ATS) crossing, there is no need to have a staffed crossing point, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Trafford's 97 sites consisted of:

RSGB Category	Definition	No. in Trafford
A	A School Crossing Patrol (SCP) is justified at this site.	66
B & C	A SCP site is not initially justified and consideration of further factors (such as proximity to junctions and the age of the children using the crossing) do not move the crossing point into Category A.	14
P	Sites where there is already a fully automatic signal crossing.	17

2) Implementation of budget Proposal

Following the Public Consultation and further detailed analysis by Trafford's road safety unit and TfGM the number of crossings categorised for retention increased from 66 to 71 (see appendix 1). Therefore the number of crossings that would no longer be

funded reduced from 31 to 26. In summary 4 staffed ATS crossings on the A56 were retained:

- Point 112 – Chester Rd/Taylor's Rd, Gorse Hill, Stretford
- Point 113 – Chester Rd/Davyhulme Rd East, Stretford
- Point 217 – Washway Road/Eastway, Sale
- Point 149 – Chester Rd/Barton Rd, Old Cock Pub Stretford

Also one non ATS crossing point 103 (Seymour Park School) at Northumberland Rd / Lillian Street, Old Trafford was retained.

No responses from the public consultation were received regarding 10 of the crossing points, responses were received relating to 21 of the crossing points. Of these 11 crossing points they received 3 or fewer responses. 64% of the site specific responses and 100% of the petitions relate to four of these crossing points now retained.

Table: Final categorisation and SCP identified for retention

RSGB Category	Definition	No. in Trafford
A	A School Crossing Patrol (SCP) is justified at this site.	66
B	A SCP site is not initially justified and consideration of further factors (such as proximity to junctions and the age of the children using the crossing) do not move the crossing point into Category A.	1
P	Sites where there is already a fully automatic signal crossing.	4

The final staffing impact therefore reduced from 29 at risk to 24, with 23 vacant posts. However, due to the localisation of staff and the dispersal of the crossing points it was deemed unacceptable to transfer 6 of the displaced staff to alternative post (due to individual transport restrictions). Therefore 6 members of staff left the service. The vacant posts were therefore operated through a combination of casual and mobile staff.

3) Current Situation:

Since the implementation of the budget recommendations there have been no complaints received in relation to the points no longer funded, see appendix 2. All schools impacted by these points were consulted and offered the opportunity to fund them. No schools expressed an interest.

The difficulty of recruiting staff (especially in the South of the Borough) has remained extremely difficult, this has been compounded by 5 retirements. This has left the service continuing to utilise mobile staff to cover some of these crossings. Mobiles attract mileage payments to travel to and from the crossing point and were to be allocated permanent crossings to remove the mileage payments. However, 7 have been retained to cover crossing points in the South of the Borough rather than leaving them un-staffed. This additional cost has been contained within the budget envelope.

We have continued to work with schools and keep them informed of the staffing situation and in return Schools now advertise our job vacancies in their School Newsletters. Training has also been offered to any parent or PTA member who would be willing to provide temporary cover for the crossing point servicing their specific school.

We have also attempted to highlight and attract people to a School Crossing Patrols position by involving the local media, who have published an article in the local paper, not only raising awareness of the importance of the role of a School Crossing Patrol officer but also how rewarding it can be.

Following this media drive we have held further recruitment open days which have proved successful and we will continue to undertake these going forward (these days also recruit staff for catering and cleaning posts).

The result of this joint campaign is that we have attracted a number of applicants, and we anticipate we will be fully recruited (subject to DBS checks and further retirements) by April 2016.

However, a consequence of the reduction in overall staffing numbers and the removal of Cat B & C has resulted in the lack of opportunity to transfer staff from less critical crossing points to cover staff sickness on critical crossings points.

To ensure a consistency of service an application to retain 2 mobiles once the service is fully recruited to the static crossings is to submitted, this will be contained within the budget envelope.

APPENDIX 1

School Crossing Points retained (April 2015)

Point N°	Location of Crossing Point	Category
102	Stretford Rd/Clifton St.Old Trafford	A
103	Northumberland Rd/Lilian St. Old Trafford	B
104	Ayres Rd/Northumberland Rd Old Trafford	A
106	Seymour Gr/Darley Rd/Rye Bank Rd Stretford	A
107	Kings Rd/Woodstock Rd Stretford	A
108	Kings Rd/Warwick Rd Stretford	A
109	Kings Rd/Warley Rd Stretford	A
110	Greatstone Rd at Quadrant Roundabout	A
112	Chester Rd/Taylors Rd Gorse Hill Stretford	ATS
113	Chester Rd/Davyhulme Rd East Stretford	ATS
114	Davyhulme Rd East/Delamere Ave Stretford	A
115	Derbyshire Lane/Delamere Ave Stretford	A
117	Edge Lane/Kings Rd Stretford	part ATS
123	Winchester Road/Wallingford Road Stretford	A
124	Moss Vale Rd/Bradfield Rd Urmston	A
125	Stretford Rd/Scholfield Ave Urmston	A
127	Lostock Rd/Rochester Rd Davyhulme	A
128	Canterbury Rd/Rochester Rd Davyhulme	A
129	Moorside Rd/Roseneath Rd Davyhulme	A
130	Davyhulme Rd/Cornhill Rd Davyhulme	A
131	Woodsend Crescent Rd/Irlam Rd Flixton	A
132	Flixton Rd/Wycliffe Rd Urmston	A
133	Flixton Rd/Chassen Rd Flixton	A
135	Moorside Rd/Mardale Ave Flixton	A
136	Flixton Rd/Church Rd/Carrington Rd Flixton	A
137	Irlam Rd/Woodsend Rd Flixton	A
138	Carrington Lane/Ollerton Ave Ashton-on-Mers	A
139	Harboro Rd/Firs Rd Ashton-on-Mersey	A
141	Harboro Rd/Harboro Wy/Delauneys Rd Sale	A
142	Crofts Bank Rd/Canterbury Rd Davyhulme	A
145	Harboro Rd/Moss Lane Ashton-on-Mersey	A
146	Broadway/Laburnum Rd Davyhulme	A
147	Winchester Rd/Pathway Davyhulme Jnr/Inf.	A
149	Chester Rd/Barton Rd, Old Cock Pub	ATS

	Stretford	
150	Winchester Road/Foxdenton Drive Stretford	A
151	Church Rd/Nr.Church Inn. Flixton	A
152	Davyhulme Road/Hayswater Road	A
201	Glebelands Rd/Park Rd AoM	A
202	Dane Rd/Temple Rd Sale	A
203	Broad Rd/Temple Rd Sale	A
204	Marsland Rd/Alexandra Rd Sale	A
205	Northenden Rd/Worthington Rd Sale Moor	A
206	Old Hall Rd/Outside Holy Family RC School	A
207	Northenden Rd/Cranston Drive Sale Moor	A
208	Marsland Rd/Conway Rd Sale Moor	A
210	Hope Rd/Outside Jacks DIY Sale	A
213	Marsland Rd/Beaufort Rd Sale	A
217	Washway Rd/Eastway Sale	ATS
218	Firs Rd/Outside Firs Primary School Sale	A
219	Manor Ave/Firs Way Sale	A
224	Park Rd/Outside St.Hugh's RC Timperley	A
225	Norris Rd/Baguley Lane Sale Moor	A
226	Shaftsbury Ave/Pathway to Cloverlea Prim Alt	A
227	The Avenue/Meadway Sale	A
228	Wood Lane/Green Lane Timperley	A
230	Hawarden Rd/Gladstone Rd Broadheath Alt	A
231	Stamford Park Rd/Queens Rd Altrincham	A
232	Church St/Woodlands Rd/Chester Rd Altrinch	A
234	Oakfield Street/Oakfield Rd Altrincham	A
237	Delahays Rd/Green Lane Altrincham	A
238	Broomfield Lane/Ollerbarrow Road (Cenataph) Hale	A
239	Hale Rd/The Mount Hale Barns	A
240	Thorley Lane/Ridgeway Rd Altrincham	A
241	Sinderland Rd/Outside Broadheath Primary	A
242	Framingham Rd/Woodbourne Rd Sale	A
244	Moss Lane/Mossgrove Rd Timperley	A
245	Ashton Lane/Queens Rd Ashton-on Mersey	A
246	Norris Rd/between Croft Rd/Conway Rd Sale	A
249	Ashton Lane/Church Lane Ashton-on-Mersey	A
250	Wicker Lane/Outside St.Ambrose Prep. Hale	A
251	South Downs Road/York Drive Bowdon	A

APPENDIX 2

School Crossing Points no longer funded (April 2015)

Point N°	Location of Crossing Point	Category
101	Rye Bank Rd/Warwick Road South Stretford	C
105	Seymour Grove/Ayres Rd Old Trafford	ATS
111	Talbot Rd/Milton Rd Stretford	ATS
116	Chester Rd/Sydney St. Stretford	ATS
118	Chester Rd/Opposite Stretford Precinct	ATS
119	Barton Rd/Sandy Lane Stretford	C
120	Moss Park Rd/Manor Rd Stretford	C
121	Barton Rd/Curzon Rd Stretford	ATS
122	Barton Rd/Moss Vale Cres Stretford	ATS
126	Lostock Rd/Kingsway Park, Davyhulme	ATS
134	Flixton Rd/Brook Rd/Bowfell Rd Flixton	ATS
140	Derbyshire Lane West/Addison Rd Stretford	B
143	Bradfield Rd/Outside Park Gate Stretford	C
144	Moss Rd/Grange Rd/Radstock Rd Stretford	C
148	Chester Road/ Green Street, Stretford	ATS
209	Northenden Rd/Hampson St. Sale Moor	B
214	Brooklands Rd/Woodbourne Rd Sale	ATS
216	Woodhouse Lane East, Timperley	C
220	Moss Lane/Hardwick Rd, Footway Partington	C
221	Warburton Lane/Central Rd Partington	ATS
222	Warburton Lane/Outside Broadoak High Pa	ATS
223	Park Road/Frieston Road Timperley	ATS
229	Navigation Rd/Hawarden Rd Broadheath Alt	B
236	Bancroft Rd/Moss Lane/Grove Lane Hale	C
243	Buckfast Rd/Buck Lane/Green Lane A-on-M	C
247	Cherry Lane/Ryefield Rd Sale	B