

# Transport and Environment Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 8 December 2022

## School Travel Plan Review Update

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine All
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Transport and Environment Committee is asked to note:
  - 1.1.1 This progress update on the School Travel Plan Review;
  - 1.1.2 That, going forward, quarterly progress updates will be presented to the Committee as part of the Business Bulletin; and
  - 1.1.3 That the plans to deliver infrastructure improvements arising from the School Travel Plan Review process will be set out as part of the Road Safety Improvements Delivery Plan.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Daisy Narayanan, Head of Placemaking and Mobility

E-mail: [daisy.narayanan@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:daisy.narayanan@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## School Travel Plan Review Update

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides an update on progress on the citywide review of School Travel Plans and sets out arrangements for future reporting of progress on both the review itself and the delivery of the resulting infrastructure improvements.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 Following an internal review of the Council's Road Safety programme, a systematic review of all School Travel Plans is being progressed to ensure that resources allocated to improving routes to school are targeted at locations where they have the potential to deliver the greatest benefits.
- 3.2 Improving walking, wheeling or cycling infrastructure on routes to school should lead to increased numbers of children travelling actively to school.
- 3.3 The review is aligned to the draft Road Safety Action Plan and the Outcomes and Policy Measures set out within the [City Mobility Plan](#) (CMP) to help prioritise investment in mobility across the city. The main focus of the School Travel Plan Review is on contributing towards the following CMP Policy Measures:
- 3.3.1 **PEOPLE 1 - Supporting Behaviour Change** - Encourage changes in behaviour towards the use of sustainable modes of travel through information provision, initiatives and campaigns;
- 3.3.2 **PEOPLE 2 - Travel Plans** - Require the provision of Travel Plans for major new developments as well as for existing workplaces, schools and other major trip generators;
- 3.3.3 **MOVEMENT 20 - Protecting Vulnerable Road Users** - Prioritise resources to improve the safety of the most vulnerable people using our streets, as identified through collisions analysis; and
- 3.3.4 **MOVEMENT 29 - Monitoring and Evaluation** - Ensure robust monitoring and evaluation of traffic and travel behaviour through regular and consistent data gathering.

## 4. Main report

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### **School Travel Plan Review Programme and Process**

- 4.1 There are 141 primary, secondary, independent and special schools in the city. Work commenced in November 2020 on a review of the School Travel Plans for every school in the city.
- 4.2 Work on the review was subsequently suspended between January and August 2021, due to school closures and older children undertaking home learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, which prevented the direct engagement with schools and, in particular, pupils necessary to ensure the success of the review.
- 4.3 Schools that had temporary measures installed as part of the Spaces for People programme during the COVID-19 pandemic were initially prioritised for the School Travel Plan Review process.
- 4.4 The review is now expected to be completed by Summer 2024. The programme is available to view on the [Streets Ahead Edinburgh](#) website. Further progress updates will be presented to the Committee on a quarterly basis, as part of the Business Bulletin.
- 4.5 As part of the review process, school travel surveys are undertaken with parents (for primary schools) or pupils (secondary schools). These are followed by discussions with pupils, teachers and Parent Councils about how the safety of routes to school could be improved, with the aim of agreeing a new School Travel Plan, which incorporates a prioritised five year Action Plan.
- 4.6 Each final Travel Plan is agreed with the appropriate school.
- 4.7 At the end of the five year period, each Travel Plan will be reviewed. However the Plans will be 'living' documents, which will be updated throughout their lifetime as improvements are delivered or behaviour change campaigns are undertaken.

### **Feedback to date**

- 4.8 Some of the concerns highlighted through the review process to date typically include: unsafe crossing points on routes to school, lack of cycle facilities, unsuitable traffic levels at school gates and anti-social parking around schools.
- 4.9 These types of issue could potentially be addressed by introducing improvements such as: new pedestrian/cyclist crossing facilities, new or extended waiting and loading restrictions, cycle parking facilities within schools, School Streets Zone traffic restrictions, and improvements to walking, wheeling and cycling facilities for journeys to and from school. The last of these would be developed and delivered in partnership with the Council's Active Travel team.

### **Progress Update**

- 4.10 As of 8 December 2022:
  - 4.10.1 Travel surveys have been completed for 68 schools;

- 4.10.2 Draft Travel Plans have been produced for 37 schools and these are currently going through the checking/signing off process; and
- 4.10.3 Travel Plans have been completed and formally signed off for 10 schools. The improvements prioritised most highly in these Plans are now being taken forward for delivery.
- 4.11 As new Travel Plans are completed, they will be uploaded onto the Streets Ahead Edinburgh website.
- 4.12 In addition, behaviour change campaigns (intended to promote walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling) will also continue to be undertaken and support will be offered to schools to develop other initiatives, such as park and stride and walking and cycling buses.
- 4.13 A list of all schools that have had travel surveys completed can be found in Appendix 1.

**Petition – Improve the Original/Current Traffic Calming Measures at 60 Spylaw Road, Edinburgh to make them fit for purpose for this 20mph School and Kindergarten Zone**

- 4.14 On [27 January 2022](#), Committee considered a Petition from Edinburgh Steiner School to improve the traffic calming measures on Spylaw Road in the vicinity of the school.
- 4.15 The travel survey for Edinburgh Steiner school has been undertaken and the plan has been drafted. The plan is currently awaiting final sign off with the school.
- 4.16 It is intended to implement measures, such as zebra crossings and traffic calming measures, through the School Travel Plan Review in response to the concerns raised in the petition.

**Petition by James Gillespie’s High School Eco Group – Motion by Councillor Miller**

- 4.17 On [31 March 2022](#), Committee considered a Petition from James Gillespie’s High School Eco Group to construct cycle paths to all schools in Edinburgh.
- 4.18 The travel survey for James Gillespie’s High School has been undertaken and the plan has been drafted. The plan is currently awaiting sign off with the school and Parent Council.
- 4.19 It is intended to have this plan signed off prior to the Christmas break, with ongoing engagement with the School’s Eco Group as the plan is implemented.

**Petition on Station Road, Ratho Station – Motion by Councillor Lang**

- 4.20 On 31 March 2022, Committee also considered a motion calling for restrictions on Station Road, Ratho and at Hillwood Primary School.
- 4.21 The travel survey has been undertaken and the School Travel Plan has been drafted. This includes a proposal for a School Streets Zone at Hillwood Primary School.

- 4.22 The plan is currently awaiting final sign off with the school and Parent Council. It is intended to have this plan signed off prior to the Christmas break.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Officers will continue engaging with schools and undertaking travel surveys and developing Travel Plans with the schools (as per the programme on the Streets Ahead Edinburgh website).
- 5.2 Quarterly progress updates will be provided to Committee as part of the Business Bulletin.
- 5.3 Officers will proceed with delivery of improvements identified in the School Travel Plans.
- 5.4 A plan to increase the level of resources currently dedicated to the Road Safety programme will be developed in early 2023 and this will allow delivery of the School Travel Plan Review to be accelerated.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 Funding for the delivery of improvements arising from the School Travel Plan Review will be available from within the Council's Transport Capital Investment Programme, supplemented by external funding sources such as the Scottish Government's annual Cycling Walking Safer Routes and Road Safety Improvement grant funding award.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 Engagement has been carried out with pupils, teachers and parent councils to develop each School Travel Plan.
- 7.2 Wider public engagement will be carried out with local communities as part of the design process for the improvements identified for each school.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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- 8.1 Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin, 28 January 2021 - [School Travel Plans](#)
- 8.2 Transport and Environment Committee Business Bulletin, 17 June 2021 - [School Travel Plan Review Update](#)

## **9. Appendices**

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- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Travel Surveys Completed.

**School (Individual School due to SFP)**

St Francis/ Niddrie Mill PS  
Murrayburn PS  
Bruntsfield PS  
Sciennes PS  
Brunstane PS  
Corstorphine PS  
Parsons Green PS  
Prestonfield PS  
Carrick Knowe PS  
Juniper Green PS  
Gylemuir PS  
Holy Cross RC PS  
James Gillespies PS  
St Georges School  
St John Vianney PS  
St Catherines RC Primary School  
Gracemount PS  
Ferryhill PS  
Granton PS  
Craigour Park PS  
Bonaly PS  
Longstone PS  
Rudolf Steiners  
Pirniehall PS/St. David's  
Buckstone PS  
Davidsons Mains PS  
Royal High School  
Preston Street PS  
Dalry PS  
Lorne PS  
Boroughmuir HS  
Castleview PS  
Craigentiny PS  
Hermitage Park PS  
Leith Walk PS

**School Cluster**

Portobello  
George Watson's College  
Trinity  
George Heriot's School  
Craigmount  
Gracemount  
Currie  
Queensferry  
Balerno  
Basil Paterson College  
Cargilfield School  
Clifton Hall School  
Boroughmuir

Broughton  
Castlebrae  
Leith Academy  
Tynecastle