

Individual Decision

The attached report will be taken as an
Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

24 April 2008

| Ref: | Title | Portfolio Member | Page No. |
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| ID1533 | School Safety Project Programme | Councillor Keith Chopping | 3 |

Individual Decision

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|------------------------------------|--|------------|---------------|
| Title of Report: | School Safety Project Programme | | |
| Report to be considered by: | Councillor Keith Chopping | on: | 24 April 2008 |
| Forward Plan Ref: | ID1533 | | |

Purpose of Report: To seek approval from the Executive Member for Planning and Highways of the School Safety Project Programme.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Member for Planning and Highways resolves to approve the programme as shown in Appendix A of this report.

Reason for decision to be taken: To seek authorisation of the School Safety Project Programme so that it can be implemented as either Council or developer funding permits.

List of other options considered: None.

Key background documentation:

- Reports EX0263 and EX0266 presented to Executive on 24 October 2002

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Contact Officer Details

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|------------------------|--|
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Supporting Information

1 Background

- 1.1 West Berkshire is predominantly rural in nature with many schools having very wide catchments. As a result many children receive free transport to and from school.
- 1.2 Despite this, traffic levels nationally have increased significantly over the last ten years raising concerns amongst parents over road safety. Parents become anxious about letting their children walk or cycle to schools unaccompanied and taking them to school by car is perceived as being the safest and most convenient means of transport. Consequently traffic levels increase due to additional school-related trips contributing to a deterioration of road safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 1.3 The Government produced the document 'Tomorrow's Roads – Safer for Everyone', outlining the national strategy for road safety and casualty reduction through to 2010. In this strategy one of the targets is to reduce child casualties by 50% by 2010, which is reflected in the Council's Local Transport Plan and the Road Safety Strategy. In seeking to meet these targets the Road Safety Strategy identifies three areas to improve road safety, namely Education, Enforcement and Engineering.
- 1.4 Reports approved by the Executive during October 2002 listed schools in a priority order for implementation from the Safer Routes to School Programme and Safety Outside Schools Programme. These programmes are designed to provide the necessary engineering features to slow traffic, assist crossing of roads, improve the local infrastructure generally, especially for vulnerable road users such as cyclists or pedestrians, and provide the necessary features to relieve the actual or perceived road safety risks.
- 1.5 Whilst the traffic and road safety team have been working from these lists it is considered that the lists need to be reviewed to reflect the change in pupil numbers, recorded injury accidents and highway conditions in the vicinity of schools.

2 Prioritisation

- 2.1 To improve efficiency the Safer Routes to School and Safety Outside School programmes have been combined to create the School Safety Project. In order to develop an effective programme of schemes within the project it is important to ensure that works are targeted where they are effective, achieve value for money and achieve Council/Government targets.
- 2.2 The School Safety Project Programme has prioritised schools so that those with the highest road safety risks are treated first. The programme considers personal injury accidents that have occurred up to 100 metres from the school. A technique using 'weighting' factors has been included depending on the severity of the accident and whether the accident involved a child. Further considerations include the speed limit outside a school and the speed of traffic using that road, the number of pupils at a school (to ensure that the maximum number of pupils could benefit from a scheme), whether the school has a 'walking bus' or other walking initiatives in operation and whether the school has implemented a School Travel Plan.
- 2.3 Given that a Safer Routes to School Scheme can be expensive to introduce it is considered that the School Safety Project should focus on the implementation of school warning signs with flashing lights outside all schools. This would provide maximum benefit to all schools and once completed Safer Routes to School Schemes can continue to be implemented to improve safety for pupils on their way to and from a school.

- 2.4 The programme in Appendix A identifies which schools have had schemes introduced up to and including 2008/09. The remaining schemes outside this period are listed in priority order. Data relating to the prioritisation of the schools within the programme is constantly being monitored and refined. It is therefore possible that the priority order may change from time to time, however any amendments to the programme will not be implemented without approval of the Executive Member for Planning and Highways.

3 Conclusion

- 3.1 The programme of schemes within the School Safety Project has been prioritised on the basis that schools where there is an existing accident record or a higher risk of an accident are higher up the list than those where the risks are lower.
- 3.2 Based on the current capital programme it is estimated that in 2008/09 Francis Baily (which is a scheme carried over from 2007/8) will have engineering measures introduced on the routes to the school and a further twelve schools will benefit from the installation of 'children crossing' warning signs with flashing lights. However, during 2009/10 and in each subsequent year it is estimated that seventeen schools will benefit from the installation of 'children crossing' warning signs.
- 3.3 It should be noted that opportunities will also be sought to accelerate the programme using Section 106 funding. Where the schools are in close proximity to one another they will be treated as one scheme. At current funding levels it is anticipated that every school will have warning signs in place within the next four years. Once this programme has been complete, resources will be allocated to consideration of other School Safety Projects including Safer Routes to School.

4 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Executive Member for Planning and Highways approves the School Safety Programme as shown in Appendix A.

Appendices

Appendix A – School Safety Programme.

Appendix B – Ward Member Comments

Implications

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| Policy: | None arising from this report. |
| Financial: | None arising from this report because the School Safety Programme is funded from the Councils Capital Programme or S106 contributions if available. |
| Personnel: | None arising from this report. |
| Legal: | None arising from this report. |
| Environmental: | None arising from this report. |
| Equalities: | None arising from this report. |
| Partnering: | None arising from this report. |

Consultation Responses

Members:

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| Leader of Council: | To date no response received from Councillor Graham Jones. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting |
| OSC Chairman: | To date no response received from Councillor Brian Bedwell. However any comments will be verbally reported at the Individual Decision meeting |
| P&L Committee Chairman (where appropriate): | N/A |
| Ward Members: | All ward members were consulted on the draft report on 25 th March 2008. The responses together with officer comments are detailed in Appendix B. |
| Opposition Spokesperson: | Councillor Keith Woodhams fully supports the programme. |
| Advisory Members: | N/A |
| Local Stakeholders: | N/A |
| Officers Consulted: | John Ashworth, Mark Edwards and Mark Cole. |
| Trade Union: | N/A |

SCHOOL SAFETY PROJECT

| No | Actual / Estimated Implementation | School | Comments |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 1999/2000 | Kennet Valley Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 2 | 2000/1 | Trinity School | Scheme Complete |
| 3 | 2000/1 | Long Lane Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 4 | 2000/1 | St Paul's Catholic Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 5 | 2002/3 | Little Heath School | Scheme Complete |
| 6 | 2002/3 | Denefield School | Scheme Complete |
| 7 | 2002/3 | Willink School / Mrs Blands Infant School | Scheme Complete |
| 8 | 2002/3 | Kennet School, Thatcham | Scheme Complete |
| 9 | 2003/4 | Westwood Farm Infant School | Scheme Complete |
| 10 | 2003/4 | Chieveley Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 11 | 2003/4 | St Bartholomews School | Scheme Complete |
| 12 | 2003/4 | Birch Copse Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 13 | 2003/4 | Springfield Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 14 | 2004/5 | Calcot Infant & Junior School | Scheme Complete |
| 15 | 2004/5 | Fir Tree Primary School and Nursery | Scheme Complete |
| 16 | 2005/6 | Lambourn CofE Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 17 | 2005/6 | St Finian's Catholic Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 18 | 2006/7 | Mortimer St Johns CofE Infant / St Mary's CofE Junior Schools | Scheme Complete |
| 19 | 2006/7 | Hermitage Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 20 | 2006/7 | Welford & Wickham CofE Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 21 | 2006/7 | Hungerford Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 22 | 2007/8 | St Nicolas CofE Junior School | Scheme Complete |
| 23 | 2007/8 | Theale Green Community School / Theale CofE Primary School | Scheme Complete |
| 25 | 2007/8 | Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery | Scheme Complete |
| 26 | 2007/8 | St. John the Evangelist C of E Nursery and Infant School | Scheme Complete |
| 27 | 2007/8 | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Newbury | Scheme Complete |
| 28 | 2008/9 | Francis Baily Primary School | Engineering Scheme |
| 29 | 2008/9 | Thatcham Park C of E Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 30 | 2008/9 | Falkland Primary School / Park House School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 31 | 2008/9 | Stockcross C of E School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 32 | 2008/9 | Theale Green Community School/Theale CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 33 | 2008/9 | Robert Sandilands Primary School and Nursery | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 34 | 2008/9 | Garland Junior School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 35 | 2008/9 | St Nicolas CofE Junior School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 36 | 2008/9 | Streatley CofE Voluntary Controlled School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 37 | 2008/9 | Willows Primary School (The), formerly Greenham Court | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 38 | 2008/9 | Inkpen Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |

APPENDIX A

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|----|---------|---|--|
| 39 | 2008/9 | Chieveley Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 40 | 2008/9 | Fir Tree Primary School and Nursery | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 41 | 2009/10 | Hermitage Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 42 | 2009/10 | Trinity School and Performing Arts College | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 43 | 2009/10 | Shefford CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 44 | 2009/10 | St Paul's Catholic Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 45 | 2009/10 | John Rankin Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 46 | 2009/10 | Mortimer St John's CofE Infant | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 47 | 2009/10 | Spurcroft Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 48 | 2009/10 | Woolhampton CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 49 | 2009/10 | Downs School (The) | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 50 | 2009/10 | St Bartholomew's School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 51 | 2009/10 | Denefield School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 52 | 2009/10 | Englefield CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 53 | 2009/10 | Mrs Blands Infant School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 54 | 2009/10 | Shaw-cum-Donnington C of E Primary School / The Castle School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 55 | 2009/10 | St Finian's Catholic Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 56 | 2009/10 | Speenhamland Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 57 | 2009/10 | St. John the Evangelist C of E Nursery and Infant School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 58 | 2010/11 | Curridge Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 59 | 2010/11 | Mortimer St Mary's CofE Junior | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 60 | 2010/11 | Pangbourne Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 61 | 2010/11 | Burghfield St Marys Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 62 | 2010/11 | Yattendon CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 63 | 2010/11 | Springfield Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 64 | 2010/11 | Hampstead Norreys CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 65 | 2010/11 | Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet CofE School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 66 | 2010/11 | Willink School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 67 | 2010/11 | Winchcombe School (The) | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 68 | 2010/11 | Aldermaston CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 69 | 2010/11 | Basildon CofE Primary School (Controlled) | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 70 | 2010/11 | Cold Ash St Marks C of E School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 71 | 2010/11 | Parsons Down Junior, Infant and Nursery Schools | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 72 | 2010/11 | Beenham Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 73 | 2010/11 | Birch Copse Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 74 | 2010/11 | Brightwalton CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 75 | 2011/12 | Bucklebury CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 76 | 2011/12 | Calcot Junior/Infant/Nursery School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 77 | 2011/12 | Chaddleworth St Andrew's C of E Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 78 | 2011/12 | Compton CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |

APPENDIX A

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|----|---------|--|--|
| 79 | 2011/12 | Downsway Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 80 | 2011/12 | Kennet School, Thatcham | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 81 | 2011/12 | Lambourn CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 82 | 2011/12 | Long Lane Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 83 | 2011/12 | St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Newbury | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 84 | 2011/12 | Westwood Farm Infant/Junior School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 85 | 2011/12 | Little Heath School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 86 | 2011/12 | Whitelands Park Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 87 | 2011/12 | Hungerford Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 88 | 2011/12 | Ilseleys Primary School (The) | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 89 | 2011/12 | Beedon C of E Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 90 | 2011/12 | Brimpton CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 91 | 2011/12 | Kennet Valley Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 92 | 2012/13 | Purley CofE Infant School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 93 | 2012/13 | Bradfield CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 94 | 2012/13 | Welford & Wickham CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 95 | 2012/13 | John O'Gaunt School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 96 | 2012/13 | Kintbury St Mary C of E Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |
| 97 | 2012/13 | Enborne CofE Primary School | School warning sign with flashing lights |

Appendix B

Ward Member Comments

All ward members were consulted on the draft report on 25th March 2008. The following responses were received.

| Member | Comments | Officer Response |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Billy Drummond | Fully supports this scheme that makes our schools in West Berks that little bit safer. | Comments noted. |
| Marcus Franks | My only comment is Robert Sandilands is down as complete. There are no sign of the flashing wig wag signs that were on the plans. | When members were consulted the scheme was substantially complete. However the scheme was completed on 31 March 2008. The introduction of the School warning signs with flashing lights is programmed for this financial year. |
| Anthony Stansfeld | Kintbury Primary School seems notable by its absence, unless I have missed it. | Kintbury Primary School was listed at number 99 in the draft report and programmed for 2017/18. However the Primary School is listed at 96 in the revised list and programmed for school warning signs in 2012/13. |
| Paul Bryant | I am happy with the two documents as far as they go. | Comments noted. |