

## **Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission**

**Date: 19 September 2018**

Wards: All

**Subject: Proposal for a scrutiny task group review of road safety around schools in Merton**

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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### **Recommendations:**

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and approve the terms of reference and scope of the task group, set out in paragraphs 2.7-2.13 below;
2. That the Commission appoint members to the task group. Membership may then be opened up to other non-executive councillors who are interested in the issues.

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. To present the draft terms of reference and scope of the road safety around schools in Merton task group to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission for approval.

## **2 DETAILS**

### **Background**

- 2.1. During the scrutiny topic suggestion process in spring 2018, two school governors and a resident have asked scrutiny to review the safety of pupils crossing roads whilst walking to and from school. Specific concerns were raised in relation to individual schools and a 20 MPH borough wide scheme was suggested as a means of addressing this issue.
- 2.2. The Commission, at its meeting on 17 July 2018, agreed to set up a task group to review the safety of pupils around schools in Merton.
- 2.3. **Summary of the issue**
- 2.4. The council's Future Merton (Traffic and Highways) Team, in partnership with Transport for London and schools work to improve road safety in the vicinity of schools. The management of road safety is in line with the Mayor of London's strategy for healthy streets. The team has a rolling programme of works with individual schools that includes engineering measures including localised 20mph speed limit to make the area outside the school safer; support the school with their travel plans; provide soft measures such

as cycles and scooter training as well as Kerbcraft. When considering engineering interventions, ward councillors are contacted and involved accordingly.

2.5. The Head of Parking provided an update report on the work of the parking services team to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 4 September. This included information about an aspect of the automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) project that will increase the council's ability to enforce "keep clear" markings outside schools at the start and end of the school day through a rolling programme that will provide coverage for each school for at least two weeks during the school year. This will start in November 2018, subject to resources being made available. Information gathered during the first year will enable officers to target schools with the lowest compliance.

2.6. The Commission is reminded of the Administration's commitment to a borough-wide 20 mph speed limit and the impact that it is hoped this will have not only on road safety but also on air quality and pollution. This is currently being implemented gradually and there are already a number of areas subject to a 20mph speed limit across the borough.

#### **Proposals for terms of reference and scope of the task group review**

2.7. The purpose of the task group review is to consider the aspects of road design, personal behaviour and enforcement activities that are currently affecting road safety in the vicinity of schools and to make recommendations that will help create a safer walking environment during school run periods and a change in behaviour.

2.8. The draft terms of reference are:

- To scrutinise the road safety measures that are already in place in the vicinity of local schools and receive information about the alternatives that are available;
- To identify existing best practice in Merton and elsewhere that could inform the council's future approach to road safety around schools;
- To consider how road safety measures impact on wider environmental and public health issues, including air quality and childhood obesity;
- To make recommendations that will help create a safer walking environment in the vicinity of Merton schools during school run periods.

2.9. Evidence sources will include summary information on parking enforcement legislation and guidance, briefing on programme of road safety work with schools, road traffic accident statistics, map showing current location of areas subject to a 20mph speed limit in Merton. Stakeholders include schools (head teachers, governors, parents), local residents, public health, officers working on air quality, police, Living Streets Walk to School Campaign.

2.10. Task group members could undertake visits to look at examples of best practice in the vicinity of schools in Merton and elsewhere and make recommendations to embed this across the borough. They could also examine the effectiveness of 20mph speed limits elsewhere and the

advantages and challenges that would be posed by the adoption of a borough wide 20mph speed limit.

- 2.11. Officers have suggested visits to Croydon (pedestrian only areas), Camden (closure of roads), Islington or Hackney.
- 2.12. The task group will report back to the Commission's meeting on 24 April 2019 and to Cabinet in June/July 2019.
- 2.13. Support will be provided by the Head of Democracy Services.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. The proposals have been considered previously by the Commission and were subsequently discussed with the officers in the Environment and Regeneration Department.

### **5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. None for the purposes of this covering report. Any resource implications will need to be taken into account when drawing up & approving specific review recommendations

### **6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. There are none specific to this report.

### **7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. There are none specific to this report.

### **8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. There are none specific to this report.

### **9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are none specific to this report.

### **10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- None

### **11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1. None

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