

## **Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 15 July 2019**

Wards: All

## **Subject: Scrutiny 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:**

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1. That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix 1) arising from the scrutiny review of road safety around schools in Merton undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission;
  2. That Cabinet decides how it wishes to respond to the recommendations of the task group. In particular whether it wishes to accept the recommendations and to respond to these through an action plan to be drawn up by officers in consultation with the lead Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet;
  3. That Cabinet decides whether it wishes to formally approve this action plan prior to it being submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. To present the scrutiny review report on road safety around schools in Merton and to seek approval to implement the review recommendations through an action plan drawn up by officers in consultation with a lead Cabinet Member to be designated by Cabinet

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The task group was established by the Commission at its meeting on 17 July 2018 in response to suggestions made during the scrutiny topic suggestion process in spring 2018, whereby two school governors and a resident asked scrutiny to review the safety of pupils crossing roads whilst walking to and from school.
- 2.2. The task group's terms of reference were:
  - 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.

- 2.3. The task group's findings and recommendations are set out in a report for Cabinet's consideration, attached at Appendix 1.

### **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.
- 3.2. Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.
- 3.3. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from overview and scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny task group's report.

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

- 4.1. In carrying out its review, the task group consulted local parents and residents, headteachers and school governors and questioned council officers. Appendix 1 lists the written evidence received by the task group and Appendix 2 contains a list of witnesses at each meeting.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. The report was approved by the Commission at its meeting on 4 July 2019 and it was agreed to present the report to Cabinet.
- 5.2. Cabinet is asked to provide a formal response to the Commission at meeting on 11 September 2019.

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

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this covering report. Any specific resource implications will be identified and presented to Cabinet prior to agreeing an action plan for implementing the report's recommendations.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

- Appendix 1 – task group review report on road safety around schools in Merton

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. Notes of task group meetings