

FORWARDING TO CABINET: FORMER REVIEW INTO THE COUNCIL'S ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE BOROUGH'S SCHOOLS

Committee name	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure Select Committee
Officer reporting	Anisha Teji – Democratic Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – Draft Conclusions, Findings & Recommendations
Ward	All Wards

HEADLINES

To progress the former select committee's review into Road Safety to Cabinet, following its merger into the new Corporate Resources & Infrastructure Select Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

- 1. Note the former select committee's review and their final draft conclusions, findings and recommendations in Appendix 1;**
- 2. Delegate submission of these, and the final report on the matter to the Cabinet, to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with this Committee's Chair and other Members as appropriate.**

Background

Before the Council's AGM in May, the former Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee was in the final stages of completing its in-depth review into the Council's Road Safety Initiatives and activities around the Borough's schools. A summary of the committee's review is set out below. A number of witness sessions were held by the Committee over a year, culminating in draft conclusions, findings and recommendations being considered at their meeting in April 2024.

The former chair of the Committee has agreed that its successor Select Committee [this committee] take forward the process of submitting the final recommendations and the associated report to Cabinet. These are set out in Appendix 1.

To do this in an efficient manner, and conscious that the current committee does not fully comprise Members on the former one who took part in the review, Officers advise that the Committee note the current recommendations and provide full delegated authority to submit them and also the final report to the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

In doing so, Democratic Services will consult with this Committee's Chair, the former chair, other relevant Councillors and ultimately the Cabinet Member before submitting the final report to Cabinet.

Summary of the former committee's review

The former Property, Highways and Transport Select Committee agreed the following Terms of Reference for its review into road safety initiatives and activities around the Borough's schools:

1. To understand the Council's current position and procedures with regard to road safety initiatives;
2. To explore the national legislative setting and initiatives undertaken by other London Boroughs and local authorities in relation to road safety, particularly outer London Boroughs;
3. To explore road safety trends both locally and nationally;
4. To assess the Council's approach to road safety within the vicinity of schools;
5. To influence any emerging Council plans with respect to road safety and traffic calming;
6. Subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions, service and policy recommendations to the decision – making Cabinet.

To take these objectives forward, during 2023/24, a number of witness sessions were held, hearing testimonies from officers, the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways and Transport, school representatives as well as witness testimonies from a local resident, schools and Youth Travel Ambassadors (YTA).

At the first witness session, the Committee heard about the importance of partnership between the Council and schools, emphasising the needs of different schools. Officers detailed the School Travel and Road Safety Team's efforts, highlighting collaboration with Transport for London. Additionally, discussions covered adult cycle training and the impact of electric bikes. The Committee praised efforts in Practical Pedestrian Training and discussed changes in TfL-funded safety programs.

At the second session, the Committee heard from witnesses from St Helen's College, who presented their Junior Travel Ambassador (JTA) program's achievements. Highlighted projects included funding applications, a road safety comic strip competition, and proposals for a Blue Peter road safety badge. The Committee praised their efforts and discussed expanding the program's reach. Suggestions to improve road safety included encouraging proper drop-off/pick-up locations and addressing inconsiderate parking. The importance of school engagement was also emphasised.

At later meetings, the Committee focused on the resident experience and a local resident explained their experience of traffic and safety issues near schools. Members heard about chaotic conditions during peak times, awareness, enhancing parking enforcement addressing parent behaviour. The Committee acknowledged similar issues borough-wide and emphasised the shared responsibility between schools, parents, and the Council. Witness testimonies from Guru Nanak Sikh Academy representatives discussed ongoing efforts to promote road safety, such as staggered drop-offs and pick-ups and engagement with local businesses. The Committee welcomed these initiatives and noted the school's unique challenges due to its location. The Academy's Headteacher discussed initiatives like alternative parking arrangements and educational efforts targeting parents and students. Concerns about safety, including abandoned vehicles and parental behaviour, were raised, with a focus on collaboration and education to address them.

Key statistics were highlighted to Members around accident data, traffic offences and the number of road safety initiatives. It was also emphasised that collaborating with schools and parents to

enhance safety measures around schools was essential. Members heard that officers were receptive to discussing safety measures with schools or parents and were consistently willing to engage in dialogue. Fostering communication and transparency remained a priority in promoting safer routes to school.

Further to this, Members discussed their potential recommendation ideas at their meeting in April 2024. These focused around communications, fostering relationships with different stakeholders, investigating appropriate areas for 20 mph zones and reviewing appropriate signage and road markings outside schools. The Committee's final draft conclusions, findings and recommendation are attached as Appendix 1.

CONSIDERATIONS

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the process of progressing this report to Cabinet. However, any recommendations to Cabinet will be subject to the usual financial review before submission.

Legal Implications

None.

Background Papers

[Committee minutes and witness sessions](#)

Appendix 1 - Draft final recommendations

Through the witnesses and evidence received during the detailed review by the Committee, Members have agreed the following conclusions, findings and recommendations.

The Committee concluded:

1. There was excellent partnership working between the Transport team, schools and local communities and it was recognised that each school had unique characteristics, including student demographics, school location and traffic patterns.
2. There were effective communications between the Council and schools and this was demonstrated through the proactive Transport team that contacted schools regularly, conducted site visits and created different engagement workshops.
3. The Transport team had an extensive list of engineering works planned as part of its programme to increase road safety and this included works around providing zebra crossings, improving the condition of footway and carriageways, and improving signage.
4. The Transport team monitored accident data and near miss incidents to inform ways of working with schools and local community organisations.

The Committee found that:

1. Although the Transport team was proactive in fostering proactive partnership working with different schools, it was difficult to engage with some secondary schools.
2. Schools often had good initiatives in place to implement road safety measures however parents often caused issues during drop offs and picks up as they parked inconsiderably, and levels of enforcement varied which caused further disorder at school gates.

The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Promote projects and events throughout the year through social media highlighting the Youth Travel Ambassador programmes and the Dragons Den event.
2. Explore ways on how communications can be better developed with schools that do not engage. This may include introducing working groups amongst schools, encouraging Ward Councillors to highlight the benefits of working with the Transport team and issuing advisories for schools to be shared with parents at the start of the academic year about safe drop off and pick-ups.
3. With the improvement in technology in CCTV cameras the Committee recommends that Cabinet reviews the current cameras used outside schools and looks at improving the cameras as an ongoing programme of works to ensure pupils and public are and remain safe outside schools where there are restricted parking areas and/or consider other enforcement options.
4. Cabinet instruct officers to continue making relevant applications to Transport for

London for funding to continue improving road safety across the Borough ensuring the roads across Hillingdon are safe for all users and that there is appropriate signage and road markings outside schools.

5. Cabinet instruct parking enforcement officers to attend the schools on a reasonable rotational basis.
6. Cabinet instructs officer investigate those schools that could benefit from 20 mph speed limits where appropriate and work with schools to identify safer crossing routes if appropriate.
7. Cabinet request officers investigate, where feasible, raising pavements and installing bollards outside schools to improve safety.