

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS – COMMUNITIES

CABINET

17 SEPTEMBER 2019

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to recommend amendment to the School Crossing Patrol Service with adoption of the Road Safety Great Britain [GB] School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines 2016 (the 2016 GB Guidelines).

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives / Other Corporate Priorities.

- 2.1 This report supports the following corporate priorities:

Smarter use of resources - ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background.

- 3.1 Cabinet approved a report on the 3rd March 2015 with the following recommendations:

- *the introduction of a School Crossing Patrol Policy and Site Assessment Criteria formed as outlined in the Road Safety GB School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines (2012), and based on these criteria to give delegated power to the Cabinet Member - Communities to establish and disestablish sites.*
- *the consideration of support by outside bodies to fund relevant SCP sites which are considered to be of community value.*

- 3.2 In the previous Cabinet Report there were 24 identified permanent School Crossing Patrol Officers [SCP's] currently employed by Bridgend County Borough Council. As a result of fluctuations in the service and as some SCPs have left or retired, there are now 17 permanent SCPs currently employed by Bridgend County Borough Council.

- 3.3 There are a number of sites which are historical and need to be investigated further to determine their status. For example, some sites are located where formal crossings have been provided, therefore SCP provision is not required and the posts have not been filled.

4. Current situation / proposal.

- 4.1 As detailed in the Road Safety GB School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines (2012), appraisal of a potential site should be carried out objectively and be capable of withstanding challenge or criticism. This guidance was updated in 2016 - the main difference between the guidelines is that one of the 2012 criteria counts children and adults that are crossing the road, whereas the 2016 guideline criteria considers the primary user to be child pedestrians crossing the road adopted.
- 4.2 In terms of identifying where resources should be directed it is proposed that Cabinet approves the use of the updated School Crossing Patrol Policy and Site Assessment Criteria to include the 2016 GB Guidelines, in assessing vacant or proposed sites.
- 4.3 This approach does not mean that sites will be automatically disestablished if they do not meet the criteria, as dialogue would take place with schools and community councils if they expressed an interest in funding the retention of the site.
- 4.4 In keeping with the previous report a site would be assessed if there is a change in circumstances i.e. a school relocation, a retirement or vacancy of a school crossing patroller, demographic changes to a school.
- 4.5 It is appreciated that the removal of any SCP from a site can be a very emotive issue for the local community, therefore if the site does not meet the criteria, but the community consider the provision of an SCP to be important to them, then consideration should be given to other ways of funding the post such as the Community / Town Council. The SCP would be employed by BCBC but funded by the community.
- 4.6 This proposal is in line with the best use of resources and focusses on those sites where there is greatest assessed risk based on the 2016 GB Guidelines.

5. Effect on Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 None identified

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A screening EIA has been completed and identifies a full EIA is carried out within three years

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 An assessment has been carried out and suggests the following:

- **Long-term**

The proposal is to utilise the latest guidance for the assessment of School Crossing Patrol sites in assessing the requirement for assisted crossing provision

- **Prevention**
The guidance provides a criteria to assess road crossings for the placement of School Crossing Patrols
- **Integration**
Provision is potentially made where it meets the guidance for assisted crossing provision for school aged children.
- **Collaboration**
The traffic and transportation section work with schools and education department in relation to road safety.
- **Involvement**
If a proposed or vacant site were to be identified as not meeting criteria there would be involvement with others that may include a school/town or community council

8. Financial Implications.

- 8.1 The 2019/20 budget for the SCP service is £69,600. This includes a £10k MTFS saving implemented in 19/20 with a further £10k reduction proposed for 20/21 subject to approval.
- 8.2 The service is currently anticipated to overspend by approx. £9k for 2019/20 based on the current number of sites.
- 8.3 While the impact of implementing the new guidelines on budget is not yet known if there are additional budgetary pressures arising from this, they will be met from within existing resources within the Directorate.

9 Recommendation.

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approve that:
- 9.1.1 The 2016 GB Guidelines be adopted for future assessment of vacant or proposed School Crossing patrol sites.

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Background Documents:
None