

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 4 July 2019

Wards: All Wards

Subject: Scrutiny review of road safety around schools in Merton

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

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

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers and endorses the report arising from the scrutiny review of road safety around schools in Merton, attached at Appendix 1; and
 - B. That the Commission agrees to forward the review report to Cabinet for approval and implementation of the recommendations, by means of an action plan to be drawn up by officers working with the Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present the combined scrutiny review report on road safety around schools in Merton to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission for endorsement and to seek agreement to forward to Cabinet for its consideration

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 the Commission's consideration, attached at Appendix 1. The Commission is requested to consider and endorse the report for submission to Cabinet.

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 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 task group was established by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission and so this report will be presented to its meeting on 4 July 2019 for the Commission's approval, with a view to presenting to Cabinet at its meeting on 15 July 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 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

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

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

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 Notes of task group meetings.