



To: The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 23 March 2023

Subject: School Streets

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To consider the use of School Streets to create a safer environment outside schools during entry and exit times at the start and end of the school day and encourage modal shift.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) is recommended to:
 - 1) Note the report and the steps being undertaken to trial the use of School Streets and the proposed School Street programme being undertaken as an 18-month trial in collaboration with Transport for West Midlands.
 - 2) Identify any further recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Background and Information

- 3.1 School Streets use Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) to restrict motorised traffic using a road within school drop off/pick up times, creating a pedestrian and cycle zone for that time period.
- 3.2 The proposed School Streets programme is a collaborative initiative between Coventry City Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM); and is funded through the Walking and Cycling Programme. School Streets aim to minimise the negative effects of motorised traffic at school opening and closing times by reducing the vehicles that can access specific roads around the school at these times. The School Streets scheme has numerous road safety benefits and secondary benefits include a reduction in air pollution and an increase in walking and cycling, helping to create a healthier and safer place for children and young people.
- 3.3 Residents are still permitted to access/egress their property during the times of the restriction using a permit system. Access is permitted at all times for emergency services.
- 3.4 The proposed School Streets will be introduced using Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders, these differ slightly from traditional TROs as they provide an opportunity to see how the scheme works for a period of up to 18 months, allowing monitoring and assessment to be undertaken before a final decision is made whether they should be made permanent. The first 6 months of operation are also an objection

period, allowing parents, residents, drivers etc to see how the scheme works before making comments or objections.

- 3.5 Coventry City Council is trialling School Streets at five locations.
- 3.6 The first School Street scheme has recently been installed in the Knights Templar Way Area (Templars Primary School). This became operational on 27th February 2023. This was funded separately and not through the Walking and Cycling Programme and was in response to safety concerns raised by local residents and Councillors
- 3.7 Four further School Street schemes are proposed to be funded through the Walking and Cycling Programme. The schools selected for the trial are Stanton Bridge Primary School, Southfields Primary School, Ravensdale Primary School and Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School.
- 3.8 Initiatives such as School Streets or Low Traffic Neighbourhoods aim to reduce the reliance on motorised vehicles. They are residential areas where a variety of tools are used to significantly reduce traffic levels and to create a more comfortable environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 3.9 Reducing the reliance on car travel, we will also significantly improve conditions to encourage more people to walk and cycle, as well as introducing new forms of micromobility. We will seek to do this in an inclusive way, ensuring that areas are designed to be accessible to everyone.
- 3.10 School Streets typically see changes in walking levels of 3-11% after intervention and Park and Stride increases to between 3-13%. Evidence undertaken by Sustrans demonstrates that School Streets mainly show drops in traffic volumes with only some displacement. There is very low risk of large levels of traffic displacement.
- 3.11 To achieve a successful School Street project, we have identified areas where there is a strong appetite for these measures following issues raised by the school and local residents, it is proposed to design the schemes collaboratively with the school and residents.

4 School Streets in Collaboration with TfWM

- 4.1 The proposed School Streets programme consisting of Stanton Bridge Primary School, Southfields Primary School, Ravensdale Primary School and Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School is a collaborative initiative between Coventry City Council and Transport for West Midlands (TfWM); and is funded through the Walking and Cycling Programme.
- 4.2 School Streets have been implemented across the UK, including the West Midlands; including 23 School Streets already installed across Birmingham, Walsall, and Solihull. The TfWM collaboration is the first regional cross-border school streets programme. The existing initiatives have been installed with relatively good outcomes, including increasing walking and cycling.
- 4.3 Local Authorities submitted a bid for potential School Streets. These have been prioritised to 16 locations, to be delivered by September 2023, based on a number of criteria including, level of school/local political support, links to LCWIP/cycling and walking infrastructure and existing framework to promote School Streets. Local authorities needed to demonstrate they had a high-level project plan deliverables to demonstrate success, including to measure any benefits.

Budget and Monitoring

- 4.4 The budget for the School Streets programme is £410,000 and will be paid through a grant to the local authorities via a grant agreement/grant claim process. The ATF3 grant is capital only and will not fund any revenue activities such as behaviour change/promotion, the maintenance of any School Streets infrastructure or school management costs associated (i.e. resources), nor will it fund any changes to ETROs that are not costed as part of the deliverables or the cost of any reinstatements.
- 4.5 Local Ward Councillors, for the areas where the 4 schools chosen to be part of the School Street initiative are located, have already been consulted and support the initiative.
- 4.6 The Head Teachers at each of the schools selected to be involved in this initiative (Stanton Bridge Primary School, Southfields Primary School, Ravensdale Primary School and Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School) have all been consulted and are supportive of being part of a School Street scheme.

5 Timescales and Milestones

- 5.1 The School Streets initiative is subject to consultation and will take approximately nine months to deliver.

Key high-level deliverables per school are:

Milestone 1: Official confirmation of school's interest to local authority and TfWM in delivering a school street.

Indicative timescale: Early 2023 -January-February 2023

Milestone 2: informal and formal consultation for each school street is complete as part of any TRO/ETRO.

Spring 2023 (March-April 2023).

Milestone 3: Set up of monitoring and evaluation and baseline monitoring and evaluation is completed. Spring 2023 (March-April)

Milestone 4: Delivery of infrastructure, marketing materials and implementation of the TRO/ETRO. Summer 2023 (May-September 2023)

6 Health Inequalities Impact

- 6.1 The reduction in traffic outside a school during the start and end of the school day, as a result of a School Street, will contribute to improving safety and air quality, providing health benefits to those attending the school and in the vicinity of the school, helping to address health inequalities and create a healthier and safer place for children and young people. The reduction of traffic at this time should encourage modal shift, reducing the reliance on the car and encouraging walking and cycling.

Name of Author: Joel Logue

Job Title: Civil Engineer

Organisation: Coventry Cit Council

Contact details: Joel.Logue@coventry.gov.uk