

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION OF SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL
FOR ASHTON KEYNES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Purpose of Report

1. To ask Members to consider the request for continuation of Council funding for the Crossing Patrol site at Ashton Keynes Primary School.

Background

2. The Crossing Patroller for the school has retired after 32 years in post.

Current Situation

3. The County Council's criteria for establishment or retention of a school crossing patrol are endorsed by the Local Authorities Road Safety Officers Association (LARSOA) and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA). These are detailed at **Appendix 1**.
4. The Road Safety Officer's (RSO) report on an assessment of the site which was carried out in November 2004 is at **Appendix 2**. This shows the traffic and pedestrian volumes for this site fall considerably below the criteria for a crossing patrol.
5. There are no records for the site which pre-date the previous assessment carried out in 1996. This assessment showed traffic volumes of a similar level to the one made in November.
6. It is, therefore, not clear as to whether the volumes of pedestrian and vehicular traffic using the site have altered significantly since the patroller started in 1972. It is also not clear whether the same assessment criteria were in place at that time.
7. Mrs. Soden, is the Member for the Minety Division and her letter of support for the patrol to continue is transcribed at **Appendix 3**.

Additional Information

8. Although under existing criteria it is not appropriate to continue funding the salary of the patrol, it is possible to fund the cost of uniform and equipment and also provide insurance cover and training should the school wish to pursue the appointment of a volunteer or privately funded patrol.
9. Any appointment would be subject to the applicant gaining Criminal Records Bureau and medical clearance through the Council's normal recruitment procedure.

Environmental Impact of the Recommendation

10. The Headteacher's letter of appeal at **Appendix 4**, suggests that parents may decide to drive their children to school if County funding for a patrol is not agreed.
11. However, all of the children living in the village live within 1 mile of the school and many cycle as the school has heavily promoted this method of transport under its School Travel Plan to reduce the number of cars at the school gate and promote more healthy options for getting to school.

Risk Assessment

12. The Road Safety Officer's report is an assessment of the risks posed at the site.

Cost

13. The current cost of paying a Crossing Patrol to operate half an hour each morning and afternoon is £1,261.40 per annum.

Main Consideration for the Council

14. Members must decide whether the support for the retention of funding should allow for a departure from normal policy. There are no obvious reasons why a departure from policy is justified at this site.

Reason for Recommendation

15. The County criteria for a patrol are not met and the Road Safety Officer's report does not recommend this site should continue with County funding.

Recommendation

16. That:-
 - (i) The County Council does not continue to fund the salary of the School Crossing Patrol post serving Ashton Keynes School.
 - (ii) The offer of free uniform, equipment, insurance and training be reiterated to the school.

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The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this Report: