

**31 July 2006**

**Blue Coat CE Performing Arts College – Traffic calming measures in  
Birmingham Street**

**Purpose**

To update the partnership on progress made to provide minor traffic calming measures in Birmingham Street

**Report**

Members will recall the concerns raised by staff and governors about pupils from Blue Coat School crossing Birmingham Street between the two school sites.

In view of the fact that Birmingham Street is situated in a 20 mph zone and that there has only been one reported injury to a child pedestrian over the last five years, it would not be appropriate to construct any further major engineering measures.

However, an allocation of £15,000 has now been approved as part of the Local Transport Plan (LTP). Government advice to West Midlands authorities on LTP funding has stressed the need to include measures within schemes to encourage cycling wherever possible. With this in mind, the school council has been consulted and closely involved in the decision process.

It has been decided to implement the following measures:

Pedestrian guardrails adjacent to the zebra crossing will be removed. This may appear to contradict road safety but there is a growing body of opinion that removing street furniture can improve road safety. In this case drivers will have a better view of pupils and the removal of the physical separation between road and footway should encourage drivers to slow down and be more careful.

Two green coloured on-road cycle lanes will be provided between the school entrance and National Cycle Route 5. As this will narrow the space available for cars on the road this should also reduce the speed of vehicles approaching the zebra crossing. It will also help encourage young people to cycle to school following the installation of a modern cycle shelter chosen by members of the school council. One of the key issues identified within the school's travel plan, was the need for safe cycle routes to school. The travel plan also identified the need for cycle training and safe cycle route identification to be implemented during the academic year 2006/7.

Anti-skid surfacing will be laid on both approaches to the zebra crossing. As this will be a contrasting colour to the existing road surface it will help highlight the presence of the crossing to drivers.

Spotlights to highlight the zebra crossing were also on the school council's 'wish-list'. This measure would be likely to cost about £10,000. As pupils would not normally be crossing the road during darkness and the Borough's street-lighting has also recently been brought up to standard through the Private Finance Initiative, it has been decided not to include this at the expense of any of the above measures.

Some of the other initiatives outlined in the school travel plan that might help to alleviate this situation include:

Promotion of Park and Stride locations

Voluntary Car Sharing

The school will liaise with the nearby health centre concerning the manner in which their patients park in the street, adding to congestion.

### **Next steps**

As the school has now completed its travel plan, this work will be scheduled for this financial year. The school community must also take responsibility for road safety issues as part of the plan. Appropriate support will be given to the school by the Transportation and Forward Planning section to promote road safety education and fulfil the action points contained in the travel plan.

### **Vision 2008**

The partnership plans are based on the Vision's identified themes. This initiative particularly links to the following specific priorities:

- Ensure a clean green Borough
- Ensure all people are safe and secure
- Listen to what people want

### **Recommendations**

The partnership is asked to note and support the work done by members of the school council with advice from officers of the Transportation and Forward Planning section..

### **Contact officers**

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