
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	3 November 2020
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/62/20/HS
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager – Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport	Contact No:	01475 715450
Subject:	School Crossing Patrol (SXP) Review		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose a review of the current policy and guidance following considerable change to the provision and demand for School Crossing Patrols (SXP) for Primary Schools in Inverclyde.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The policy and guidance were reviewed by the Safe Sustainable Communities Committee in January 2009 and the criteria for provision or retention of a staffed crossing point were agreed. (Min Ref: para 37).
- 2.2 At that time the Committee introduced a local policy condition supplementary to national guidance, whereby, “established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances.” In this context, “significant change” is defined as a reduction in the number of primary school children using the crossing. This local policy requires to be reviewed as it prevents demand-based decision-making.
- 2.3 Since 2009, Inverclyde Council has completed a full review of the school estates programme which has seen the closure of some schools and the expansion and construction of others. In addition housing led regeneration has led to neighbourhood populations changes. These factors have changed the walked routes to school used by primary school children and has led to decreased use at some SXP sites, continued consistent use at others and an increased use at some.
- 2.4 Guidance for the delivery of a School Crossing Patrol Service was updated in 2018 by Road Safety GB and Inverclyde Council continues to comply with the guidance. A desktop review of the guidance and subsequent site assessments have identified a conflict between the guidance criteria and the policy of not removing sites unless there has been “a significant change in circumstances.”

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee agrees:

- to remove the local policy condition that “established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances”;
- to appoint an appropriately experienced consultant to undertake a review of all extant SXP sites to ensure compliance with national guidance;

- that changes to the school estate, housing supply changes or the vacating of an SXP post by the post holder will become the trigger for a review of that SXP site; and,
- agree that where the removal of an SXP site is required, road safety education will be undertaken within the affected schools and that the schools will be supported in identifying and promoting acceptable walking routes to school and active travel.

Ruth Binks

Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The policy for provision of SXP points utilises the national guidance from Road Safety GB and sets out a clear, calculable criteria and a two-stage assessment process for the assessment and subsequent allocation of SXP provision for Primary School children in Inverclyde. The guidance is based on a mathematical relationship between pedestrian and vehicle volume, takes consideration of the type of vehicle and allows for a standardised comparison across all sites.
- 4.2 In addition to the calculable criteria and two-stage assessment process, the Safe Sustainable Communities Committee agreed an additional policy condition in 2009 that “established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances.” In this context, “significant change” is defined as a reduction in the number of primary school children using the crossing.
- 4.3 A review of the extant thirty three SXP sites in Inverclyde was carried out across 2018-19 and the results compared with previous reviews to identify sites where the policy and guidance criteria were not being met and where a significant change had occurred.

5.0 REVIEW

- 5.1 The desktop review and site assessments of 2018/19 have identified sixteen SXP points where the guidance criteria are not being met in terms of the pedestrian and traffic volume, but identified no SXP points within these sixteen where there has also been a “significant change” in line with the policy.
- 5.2 The desktop review has identified a conflict between the guidance criteria and the policy of not removing sites unless there has been a significant change in respect of the number of primary school children using the crossing. Sites which have traditionally had a low foot fall in terms of child numbers cannot be subject to a downward “significant change” and therefore the existing policy commits the Council to retaining these sites until we reach a time where no Primary School child is using them. This is not the best use of resources and conflicts with the national guidance.
- 5.3 A full review of all thirty three sites is due to be carried out in 2020/21. The assessments require to be carried out in line with the Road Safety GB Guidelines and during the journey to and from school. This requires a minimum of 66 separate assessments, with the potential for an increased number where the outcome of the assessment results in a borderline score. In addition, three further sites have been identified which require to be assessed following requests received. All assessments include a traffic type count, pedestrian count, identification of hazards and consideration of traffic speed, crossing times and sightlines and require to be carried out by experienced staff.
- 5.4 It is of note that the Road Safety GB guidance makes clear that parents remain responsible for ensuring their children’s safety on their journey to school. Inverclyde Council will continue to remind parents of this through our engagement, promotion and education of road safety, school crossing points, acceptable walked routes to school and active travel.

6.0 PROPOSAL

- 6.1 To deal with the conflict between the policy and the guidance, it is proposed to remove the local policy that “established sites will remain in place except where there is a significant change in circumstances”. For clarity, the national guidance will continue to be used.
- 6.2 To ensure that the policy provides adequate opportunity for the review of sites, whilst retaining appropriate road safety services for Primary School children, it is proposed that changes to the school estate, changes to housing supply or the vacating of an SXP post by the post holder become the trigger for a review of the SXP site.

6.3 It is proposed to appoint an appropriately experienced consultant to undertake a review of all extant SXP sites to ensure compliance and to relieve Service pressures. An additional benefit to this would be the public reassurance that an independent assessment of our practices has been carried out and that our decision-making in respect of SXP sites has been scrutinised and is properly informed.

6.4 Where the proposed revised policy results in the deletion of an SXP site, road safety education will be undertaken within the affected schools and schools will be supported in identifying and promoting acceptable walking routes to school and active travel to minimise the impact.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
00648/000 /60005	Road Safety/ SXP	2019/20			

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

7.2 Legal

No Legal implications. The proposed policy retains the relevant assessment criteria and the SXP site will only be removed if the assessment criteria confirm that the national guidance is not being met.

7.3 Human Resources

No Human Resources implications. The vacating of the post including other conditions will act as the trigger for review.

7.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X	YES (see attached appendix)
	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

7.5 **Repopulation**
No impact on repopulation.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Corporate Management Team has been consulted on this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Review of School Crossing Patrol Service. Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee, January 2009.