

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL STRATEGY 2007 - 2011

September 6th 2007

The Vision

It is the vision of Devon County Council that it will be the 'greenest' county in England and that every child will be able to travel to school as healthily, sustainably and, most of all, as safely as possible.

For this to happen, the travel needs of all children and young people between the ages of 4 and 19 in full time education will be assessed through consultation and dialogue.

Having identified and prioritised these needs it is essential to bring together in the most effective ways possible, key strategic priorities contained within the Local Transport Plan, the Local Area Agreement, Children and Young People's Plan and Every Child Matters.

This document describes the aims, objectives, performance indicators and other measures of outcome through which the implementation of Devon County Council's Strategy for Sustainable School Travel will be achieved.

BACKGROUND

Accessibility to education is a key issue facing Local Authorities, parents, schools and all other educational institutions in the UK. In rural counties like Devon this issue is of particular importance, where the implications of choice can be greatly affected by distance and the range of travel choices available. The issue must be seen against the background of schools being encouraged to be more environmentally active eg the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and “Sustainable Schools for Pupils, Communities and the Environment” (DCSF 2007). The Education and Inspections Act 2006 recognises these common themes and interests and highlights the need for increased opportunity of access to education for all, and especially by families on low incomes.

At the heart of this strategy for sustainable school travel lie the School Travel Plan (STP) programme, the provision of Home to School Transport for entitled pupils and the Children and Young People’s Plan including Every Child Matters. The strategy helps to implement significant elements within the Local Area Agreement, the Local Transport Plan and Community and Accessibility Planning. .

The strategy draws these themes together and sets out the future direction of sustainable school travel in Devon for the next five years.

SUMMARY

This document consists of the following elements:

- an **assessment** of school travel needs and the methods by which they are assessed and met. The assessment includes sections on School Travel Plans, the School Census and work by the school admissions and school transport teams within Devon County Council. Links to county and national strategies are made and targets and performance indicators are outlined and reported upon to date
- an **audit** of infrastructure for walking, cycling and bus use
- the **Sustainable School Travel Strategy** outlining the direction of sustainable school for the next five years, plus an action plan to show how it will be implemented
- an action plan to show how the **promotion** of the strategy will take place

This strategy will be revised and updated as new needs and innovations are identified in accordance with Devon County Council’s duty to meet the requirements of the Education and Inspections Act.2006

THE AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL'S SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL STRATEGY

A1. Reduce the numbers of cars used for school journeys by:

Obj.1 - Helping schools develop School Travel Plans (STPs)

Obj.2 - Developing on-going assessments of the needs of children and young people through the School Census, mapping, surveys and conversations with families and schools

Obj.3 - Helping to provide the greatest range of alternative travel choices wherever possible in order to meet our targets

A2. Work with parents & schools to improve safety on the school journey by:

Obj.1 - Assessing danger spots through mapping with children and parents and through surveys and conversations, site visits and risk assessments

Obj.2 - Improving infrastructure for walking and cycling in line with needs identified in STPs

Obj.3 - Providing training and educational materials

A3. Promote healthy lifestyles for children and young people by:

Obj.1 - Encouraging families to walk and cycle to school

Obj.2 - Raising awareness of the benefits of healthy travel choices

A4. Meet the requirements of the Education & Inspections Act 2006 in the provision of home to school transport:

Obj.1 - Ensure all who are entitled to free school transport receive it

Obj.2 - Work with parents and schools to provide a range of alternatives for low income families who have a statutory entitlement to a choice of schooling

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