



Summary

Sustainable Modes of Transport Strategy 2008 – 2011

August 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The Education and Inspections Act 2006, placed a duty on Local Authorities (LA's) to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport and produce an annual Sustainable Transport Strategy. The duty comprises of four main elements:

- An assessment of the travel and transport needs of children and young people within the authority's area.
- An audit of the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority that may be used when travelling to and from, or between schools/institutions.
- A strategy to develop the sustainable travel and transport infrastructure within the authority so that the travel and transport needs of children and young people are better catered for.
- The promotion of sustainable travel and transport modes on the journey to, from, and between schools and other institutions.

2. MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL'S STRATEGY

This summary outlines how Middlesbrough Council strategy to encourage the development and implementation of travel planning across the Borough and how it assesses, and meets the travel needs of those who need to travel to and from educational establishments. The detailed Modes of Sustainable of Transport Strategy 2008 – 2011 can be found at:

<http://www.mgrid.org.uk/mg/14.cfm?s=14&m=1171&p=131,index>

The Aims of this Strategy are:

- To ensure that systems are in place to secure fair access to schools in relation to school transport and those who are on low incomes;
- All schools to have an authorised Travel Plan within the lifetime of this Strategy;
- Continuance and further refinement of a robust monitoring system for school travel planning;
- To provide an assessment of the travel needs of a particular school/college catchments area;
- To provide an assessment of the supporting facilities and services in the area;
- To develop a strategy for the promotion of sustainable transport to and from schools and other establishments, and
- To provide a framework for consultation on matters related to transport to and from schools and other educational establishments.

The Objectives of this Strategy are:

- To provide a means for all schools to access the School Travel Planning service;
- To provide a means for schools with travel plans to train and educate students in the use of sustainable transport;
- To enable the uptake of sustainable transport for students and employees;

- To develop and implement a suite of 'soft' measures, including promotion and training;
- To increase the number of more sustainable trips throughout the borough through a campaign of awareness and education:
- To reduce the actual and perceived dangers to cyclists, pedestrians and public transport users
- To provide more and better cycle facilities, and to remove theft as a barrier to cycling as a transport mode choice at schools in the borough;
- To provide for the needs of more sustainable transport users at all stages of the land use planning and development control processes;
- To increase levels of public transport use for travel to school, and other education establishments.
- To reduce levels of car use on the school run;
- To reduce the environmental impact of transport across the Borough;
- To improve, through the increased uptake of exercise, the general health and fitness of the school population of the borough – linking with the Healthy Schools agenda.
- To ensure suppliers have and operate safe recruitment to ensure the safeguarding of children.

3. MIDDLESBROUGH LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The local area agreement for Middlesbrough sets out to meet transport needs more effectively. The Mayor's "Raising Hope" agenda is built on four pillars. One of which is to provide Middlesbrough with a 'transport network, which can meet the needs of a town on its way up'.

To achieve this, four objectives for transport have been created. The objectives are:

- Promoting economic growth and regeneration by providing accessibility improvements.
- Making our streets safer by reducing the number of accidents and casualties.
- Reduce the number of journeys by car to lower congestion levels and improve air quality and the environment.
- Encourage investment to deliver public transport improvement

From these objectives five key transport priorities have been developed to form a community transport strategy.

- A transport network to help the local community to have access to employment and other services, such as education, health, leisure and shopping.
- Congestion will not hinder economic development; impair the quality of the local environment or cause severance in our communities.
- Reduce the number of accidents and casualties on the roads.
- Reduce the environmental impact of transport on air quality, noise and climate change.
- Sustainable highways maintenance: encouraging the increased use of cycling and walking through appropriate maintenance and access improvements.

4. SCHOOL TRANSPORT - IDENTIFICATION OF NEED

In order to equitably allow access to school transport where it is required, there must be a robust and transparent method of needs identification and allocation at work, to which all have equal access.

There are two methodologies employed in the identification of need for transport provision within the Borough. One is the use of School Census data, which will be used to establish an effective baseline in order to monitor modal shift through mandatory indicator LTP4.

The second method involves the use of postcode mapping and is used as part of the Council's discharging of its duties in providing free Home to School Transport. The policy, recently amended in light of new duties and responsibilities arising from the Education and Inspections Act 2006, applies to:

- Children and young people normally resident within the Borough of Middlesbrough
- Children and young people of statutory school age
- Children and young people from vulnerable families living in the Borough

Details of the Home to School Transport Policy (4-16 and Post 16) can be found at:

<http://www.mgrid.org.uk/mg/14.cfm?s=14&m=1171&p=131,index>

5. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT ISSUES

The Council's long term Transport Strategy, as set out in the second Local Transport Plan (LTP), is based on the set of core aims and objectives. Travel planning will play a key role in meeting many of the aims and objectives.

The Council will ensure that all of the eligible schools within the Borough have a Travel Plan in place by 2010, in line with the national target set by the Travel to School Initiative (TTSI) Board and agreed by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Travel Planning's contribution to meeting the core aims and objective of the long-term transport strategy is contained in the LTP.

6. POLICY AREAS

Middlesbrough Council recognises that there is a major problem caused by the increasing inclination for parents to transport their children to school by car. School travel by car leads to congestion in and around schools, further fuelling peak hour congestion and real and perceived safety problems for motorists and school children alike. The council promoted sustainable school travel throughout the first Local Transport Plan (LTP), and is further continuing this into LTP2.

The Council supports safer journeys to school initiatives that seek to make the roads and paths around schools safer. The further development of a safer routes to school programme will enable the council to achieve the combined benefits of improved safety and a greater encouragement to walk or cycle to school.

7. STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Middlesbrough has been actively involved in many sustainable school travel initiatives/strategies since 2000. This has presented us with new opportunities to develop and promote changes to parents and children's school travel choices, whilst at the same time aiming to achieve the local and national aims of achieving safe and sustainable school travel.

The council's four aims within this strategy are:

- To reduce the level of car use for school journeys.
- To develop new, and revise existing School Travel Plans.
- To further encourage schools to take greater responsibility for addressing school travel issues.
- To improve facilities for alternative modes of travel, to encourage their use.

8. MONITORING

A reduction in the level of car use is a mandatory indicator and will be monitored within LTP2. In addition, the Road Safety Team will work to build on existing partnerships to ensure that health and the environment remain a high priority for schools.

The council is currently working towards achieving the national target of 100% of schools with a travel plan in place by 2010. On completion of the target, the council will continue work to develop school travel plans at any newly identified educational establishments.

Schools with an existing travel plan are encouraged to actively participate in an annual monitoring and review exercise. This, coupled with the continued promotion of other travel initiatives, will embed road safety and sustainable travel into a school's ethos, further encouraging schools to take greater responsibility to address their own specific travel issues. The consultation of all stakeholders as part of the annual review exercise will enable greater improvement of facilities for alternative modes of transport, thus contributing to a decreased dependency on the car for school journeys, whilst securing the long-term success of school travel plans.

AUGUST 2009