

## Decision Note – School Parking and Child School Road Safety



### REQUEST FOR DECISION BY THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER

|                           | Policing: | Crime: | Fire & Rescue: |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|----------------|
| This decision relates to: | ✓         | ✓      |                |

#### APPROVAL (for completion by Staffordshire Commissioner only)

##### Rationale for approval

I approve the recommendation as outlined in this report

**STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**

**Signature**

**Date** 20/12/2021

Date decision required by: 20 December 2021

If an urgent approval is required, please state reasons:

**For completion by Staffordshire Commissioner's Office only: -**

Decision Number: SCP/D/202122/005

Date Received: 20 December 2021

|   | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| Has the required decision been considered under the guidance of the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy?              | x   |    |
| Has the required decision been deemed to be a Key Decision as defined within the Staffordshire Commissioner's Decision Making Policy? | x   |    |
| Who is empowered to make the required decision?<br><br><b>Staffordshire Commissioner</b>  |     |    |

| Title  | School Parking and Child School Road Safety |
|--|---|
| <b>Summary:</b>  |   |
| <p>To approve the further allocation of £18,000 from the seized vehicle reserve to support the School parking initiative being undertaken jointly between Staffordshire Police Roads Policing Unit, Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council.</p> <p>Across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent there are 492 schools, of which 401 are within the area administered by Staffordshire County Council and 91 within the area administered by Stoke-on-Trent City Council.</p> <p>The campaign will particularly target problem parking and associated driving issues outside of schools; building on the investment made by partner agencies to date in tackling this road safety issue. Action will be led in Force by each school PCSO with support from their neighbourhood Officers.</p> <p>The Commissioner and Force will invest in additional 'parking buddies' which are mobile signage deployed to discourage poor parking outside of schools (which is an area of concern both around child safety and resident complaints to schools, councils and police). In addition the signage has been evidenced to reduce poor driving standards outside of schools, increasing child and resident safety. Currently there are 272 of these signs outside of schools, all of which have been provided jointly by Staffordshire County Council and Police as part of an initial investment earlier this year.</p> <p>Whilst demand is placed on to contact services in Staffordshire Police around poor parking and driving standards outside of schools, enforcement action rest with the Highways authority. As part of the signage QR codes will be displayed with links for members of the public to report this direct to the Highways authority, potentially reducing demand on contact services.</p> <p>This campaign was started at the beginning of September 2021 where 200 parking buddies were purchased. These have now been issued out but due to the huge demand from schools within our policing area, and more requests coming in daily I am asking for further investment to be able to provide more schools.</p> |   |

**Recommendation:**

**Chief Executive**

I hereby approve the recommendation for consideration.

Signature



Date

20/12/201

## **REPORT AND ADVICE TO THE STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**

### **1. Introduction and background**

Following on from RPU operations conducted at school locations around concerns that children are traveling to school without wearing seatbelts or having the proper child restraint, feedback was received from parents regarding how a Police presence has a big impact on the standard of behaviour for parking at the school and in surrounding streets. It was quite clear when there was a Police or PCSO presence that parents and visitors parked lawfully. When there isn't a police presence the parking standards fell dramatically and most parents and residents described the parking situation as "Chaos".

I have visited numerous schools, in and out of uniform and can confirm that this is indeed the case. Having spoken to residents who live close to a school that are impacted it is often a daily occurrence that their driveways are blocked and when they challenge the offending driver they are often verbally abused. (there have also been reported cases to the council of physical abuse).

School crossing patrols also report back how when they challenge bad parking they get abuse on a daily basis. There are reports of them being struck with vehicles and on occasions getting assaulted (one had a cup of hot coffee tipped over them).

Enforcement is a huge issue. Not all schools have TRO's in place (Traffic Regulation orders) for their Zig Zags. So at these locations it is really hard for Police to enforce parents parking on them. For junction parking on double/single yellows that falls to the council enforcement team to deal and with only 7 staff and a whole county to cover they can't get everywhere. PCSOs also have no traffic powers to be able to issue tickets and so must request an officer to attend.

This is clearly an issue that has been going on for years and will continue to do so, but the more we can do to remind parents, educate children and parent's about road safety then hopefully this will have some positive results and ultimately reduce demand.

The initial campaign was a huge success and because of this we have now ran out of Buddies, with around 170 more being requested and requests still coming in daily.

Stoke-on-Trent are now asking to be involved and are compiling a list of their schools.

One piece of feedback I have received is *"I wanted to say thanks very much for our three buddies. I deployed them yesterday and they are very effective. Our parents were very complimentary and the general consensus is that it is a job well done. In fact, my Head, Mrs. Robertson, is so enamoured of them that she was wondering whether you have any left. She has asked me to see if we could get two or three more for our Sturgeons Hill entrance. Do you have any? If we've missed the boat, then no worries, but If there are any remaining unissued, please may we have three more?"*

Fortunately whilst levels of actual collisions involving children is low we do not generally receive reports of near misses of which anecdotally crossing patrols and parents will say are frequent. There is no doubt that perceptions amongst parents and local residents are influenced by what they see and experience on a daily basis.

## **2. Issues for consideration**

The Commissioner is asked to support the further allocation on £18,000 from the seized vehicle reserve to support this initiative. This will support the leveraging of partner agencies investment as alignment to the commissioners priority around road safety.

## **3. What other options have been considered?**

72 council and 200 Police Parking buddies have been issued to date, but there are a further 40 schools on the list requesting them.

## **4. Consultation and Engagement undertaken**

The RPU, and various teams from the council have had numerous meetings so far to discuss and arrange a joint operation.

The council already engages with schools around safe parking, also vehicles idling (which causes the pollution levels to rise) and the school crossing patrols work hard daily to ensure a safe environment for the school children – but there is only so much they can do and not every school have them.

## **Report Implications**

### **Monitoring Officer comments:**

Signature:



Date: 20/12/2021

### **Section 151 Officer comments:**

I am supportive of this investment to be funded from the 'Seized Vehicle Reserve' totalling £18,000. This will support investment being made by both the Force (via the Roads Policing Team) in relation to resourcing, investment by partner agencies in resourcing as well as complementing the existing investment made by Staffordshire County Council. Roads safety is one of the key tenants of the Police and Crime plan and remains one of the publics priorities.

This investment compliments the earlier investment made by the commissioner from the seized vehicle fund. The seized vehicle reserve has been utilised before to support roads policing and roads safety initiatives with funding from the confiscation and sale of seized vehicles. The reserve balance stood at £448k as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (financial year end).

The Commissioner should note that at this stage that the City Council wish to see the impact of physical signage improvements within the County are first before investing their own funds. However they are supportive of the wider action being taken and will support the resourcing of this operation. This is a changed position from the previous decision note, and in part is the reason for seeking further funding to expand the scheme into Stoke on Trent

Signature *J. Bloomer* Date 07/12/2021

|  | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Has legal advice (outside of that provided by the Monitoring Officer) been sought on the content of this report? |     | ✓  |

**Legal Comments:**

Not required – financial allocation from earmarked reserves in line with financial regulations

**5. Equality Comments – please attach the completed EIA**

Not required

**6. Background/supporting paper**

**7. Public access to information**

Published on the commissioners website, reported as a decision to Police, Fire and Crime Panel

**8. Data Protection Impact Assessment - please attach the completed DIA**

Not required

**9. Is the publication of this form to be deferred?**

No

**10. If the report is for publication, is redaction required?**

No

|                       | Yes | No |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| Of the Decision Note? |     | ✓  |
| Of the Appendix?      |     | ✓  |

**ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**

July 2021

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| <b>Author</b> | <b>Angie Lester</b> |
| <b>Signed</b> | <b>A Lester</b>     |
| <b>Date</b>   | <b>07.12.21</b>     |