

School developments

Bristol is experiencing a high demand for school places which needs to be met within a dense urban environment. Any new or expanded school will impact on the surrounding area and it is essential to ensure that this impact on the highway network is minimised as much as possible. Pre-application discussions are essential to allow sufficient consideration to be given to this form of development.

Travelling to school by car is a key contributor to safety, congestion and air pollution concerns and can have a severe negative impact on local residents and their environment.

School developments which create significant additional movements on the highway will be expected to deliver works to improve the local highway network to encourage travel by sustainable modes of transport e.g. cycling and walking.

Any highway works (having been previously discussed with TDM through pre-application discussions) should be identified and included within the description of the planning application. This will ensure full consultation of the proposals with affected residents and other interested parties throughout the planning process. The absence of such information at consultation stage could result in delays to the assessment of the application and any delivery of any measures, to the detriment of the provision of school places.

Any highway works would then be secured by a planning condition to ensure that they are delivered prior to the use of the development.



Fig 1: School Crossing Patrol Warden



Fig 2: Safer Routes to School measure

Transport Statement / Assessment requirements

A Transport Statement / Assessment (depending on the scale of the proposals) will be required and should additionally include (but not be limited to) the following:

- Audit of routes to school in the vicinity of the site and obstacles deterring using sustainable modes of transport.
- Existing travel surveys for both pupils and staff.
- For existing schools, a survey of pupils and parents identifying perceived obstacles to sustainable travel.
- A design that reduces impact of parking along the site frontage, including proposals for school keep clear markings and waiting restrictions.
- Full assessment of all crossing points and desire lines in the vicinity.
- Identified scheme of traffic management measures to improve walking and cycling facilities to access the school site.
- Use of pencil bollards at crossing points to highlight school site.

The design of the school would include:

- Secure and covered cycle parking to at least the minimum standards set out in the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies.
- Car parking and disabled car parking provision within the maximum standard set out in SADMP.
- Set-back, wide pedestrian/ cycle access and gates.
- No drop off facility other than any required for SEN/disabled parking.
- Provision for large vehicles, particularly coach set down and pick up facilities.

School Travel Planning:

Bristol City Council uses *Modeshift STARS* to register, assess and monitor School Travel Plans (STPs). Schools will need to identify a School Travel Champion and then visit modeshiftstars.org to register. The registration request will be sent to our Schools Sustainable Transport team and once the account has been set up, basic school data will need to be uploaded. All new and expanding schools will need to complete the 'Introduction' and 'Travel and Transport Infrastructure' sections, set 'Aims and Objectives' and 'Targets' to increase active travel.

There is a wealth of information to help the school complete their STP available in the Guidance List section of the *Modeshift STARS* website, including How to add Planning Applications information (Development Control). The school's Travel Champion will also be guided through the process of producing their plan by Bristol City Council's Schools Sustainable Transport team. There is no cost for the school to use the *Modeshift STARS* scheme.

As part of the planning consent, a condition will be applied to submit a Travel Plan through *Modeshift STARS*.

