

COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON AREA BOARD
DATE: 2nd APRIL 2012
SUBJECT: PARKING ENFORCEMENT OUTSIDE SCHOOLS
REPORT BY: HEAD OF BUSINESS & CONSUMER SERVICES
CONTACT OFFICER: TONY STEFANO 548521

IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To report to West Luton Area Committee on the arrangements for parking enforcement outside Schools in Luton.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. **West Luton Area Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report**

BACKGROUND

3. Luton, like many towns, suffers from parking problems outside schools mainly as a result of parents parking inconsiderately at drop off and pick up times. This results in an increased risk to children due to reduced visibility and multiple vehicle movements in the close vicinity of schools. Parking enforcement and colleagues in Road Safety receive many reports and requests from parents and school representatives for the Council to take steps to keep school entrance areas free from parked vehicles.
4. Traditional, foot patrol parking enforcement has been carried out at schools and is received positively by school head teachers and governors but has limited long term impact in maintaining compliance and as it is extremely labour intensive the enforcement team are unable to sustain a regular attendance at every school.

5. Parking enforcement within Luton is divided into 22 beat areas and Civil Enforcement Officer's are deployed on patrol each day. Some of the Schools we visit are within easy walking distance of our base whilst others are only reachable by car, which is why we also deploy a mobile patrol every day.
6. The service currently deploys 23 Civil Enforcement Officers to deal with parking enforcement across Luton.

CURRENT METHODS OF ENFORCEMENT

7. Luton has around 80 plus schools of which approx 35 are in the daily foot patrolled areas. The remaining Schools are located further away from our base and need to be covered by mobile patrol vehicle. As the service has only 1 mobile patrol vehicle, and as the parking issues around schools are limited to short periods in the morning and afternoons, it is not possible to cover all the outlying schools on a daily basis.
8. In addition to the programmed foot patrols that carry out school enforcement, the team also respond based upon complaints or other ongoing initiatives. Resources are allocated to schools based upon-
 - Responses to complaints from local residents, or other road users.
 - Requests for enforcement from Schools, Road safety colleagues.
 - School Congestion days in conjunction with colleagues from Police & Road Safety.
 - Parking Service initiatives such as Enforcement Action days

Contravention Levels:

9. Civil Enforcement Officers issue PCNs to vehicles wrongly parked at Schools. Across the borough the statistics for school enforcement are:
 - 2010/11 – 89 PCN's
 - 2011/12 – 160 PCN's issued
10. Schools in the West area have been visited on 19 occasions in the last 3 months.

Barnfield West Academy (formerly Halyhard)	x2
Beechwood Primary	x2
Challney Boys	x1
Challney Girls	x1
Chantry Primary	x1
Downside Infant & Junior	x1
Ferrars Infant	x1
Ferrars Junior	x3
Gill Blowers Nursery	x1
Leagrave Primary	x1
Moorlands	x1

Pastures Way Nursery	x1
Pirton Hill Infant & Junior	x1
Southfield Infant & Junior	x1
St Martin de Porres Primary	x1

Future plans for school parking enforcement

11. In 2011 Luton submitted a successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid to the Department for Transport. The Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) work programme is designed to encourage more sustainable travel in and around Luton.
12. The project board has considered a number of initiatives related to road safety around schools and the impact that safety concerns may have on encouraging sustainable travel to schools.
13. The LSTF project board has agreed to fund the lease of a CCTV camera enforcement vehicle with a view to it being used on a daily basis to carry out school based enforcement. (see picture below)
14. A programme of school visits will be developed with colleagues in the Road Safety team. All schools will be subject to frequent patrols but the greatest emphasis will be on those with the highest levels of inconsiderate parking.
15. Signage will be erected to warn drivers that CCTV enforcement is taking place in the area.



LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

16. Enforcement of school entrance markings is undertaken by the Council's Civil Enforcement Officers once a Traffic Regulation Order has been introduced by the Council. This is agreed by David Watson, Solicitor, on 21st March 2012