

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Operations
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	03 November 2023
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	School Crossing Patrol Provision
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### **UPDATE:**

This Service Update is given to provide detail on School Crossing Patroller (SCP) provision within the city and the Facilities Management Service's recent engagement exercise undertaken with our SCPs as a result of the challenges for ongoing service provision.

### **BACKGROUND:**

There was a report presented at the Council's Urgent Business Committee (UBC) meeting on 30 June 2020. The committee considered a '[Financial Resilience Recovery Plan](#)', from our Chief Officer – Finance, that detailed the financial challenges faced by the Council as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and contained a series of recommendations on actions which would be necessary to ensure that a balanced budget position for financial year 2020/21 was achieved.

UBC approved Officer recommendations to revise commissioning intentions and service standards, and the related efficiency proposals that were set out in the report. One of these approved efficiency proposals saw the School Crossing Patrol service budget reduced in value on the assumption that the service would continue to reduce.

In order to operationally make best use of available resource, the Service engaged with People & Organisational Development (P&OD) and Legal service colleagues over summer 2023 to consider how our SCPs could be effectively relocated to busier school crossings.

This led to a letter being sent to each SCP on 18 September 2023, to invite them to a meeting with service management and P&OD team colleagues. The letter detailed the process which the service intended to take to consider relocating SCPs and contained a preference form for each SCP to complete and return to the service. The preference form also contained a section for

SCPs to record other information in relation to their individual circumstances, specifically referencing protected characteristics and asking SCPs to note any information they wished to be taken into account to help inform next steps.

Both verbal feedback received at the meeting and written feedback in the preference forms returned by SCPs indicated that it was impractical for many SCPs to relocate to busier crossing points. An example of the impracticality for one SCP is that they would need to take two buses to travel from home to any of the busier crossing points and two buses back home again.

Many of our SCPs are members of the local communities where their crossing points are located, meaning travel distance to their place of work is short. An SCP's typical work pattern is for a short period of around one hour prior to each school day commencing and a short period of around one hour at the end of each school day. It was determined that the very part time nature and split shift of the SCP role made it impractical and unreasonable to expect any SCP to attend another work location which required one or two buses to get to and home again, with the same journey having to be repeated twice daily.

### **WHAT NEXT:**

The service is unaware of any road traffic accidents involving young people at any of the established crossing points in the city over the last five years and whether they were staffed by an SCP at that time, or not.

By the end of financial year 2023/24, mandatory 20mph zones will be installed around all city schools. These works are being taken forward as part of Scottish Government Strategy, which ultimately aims to introduce mandatory 20mph speed limits in all urban areas in Scotland. They are also in line with the Council's Road Safety Plan Action at local level.

Our SCPs are highly respected and valued employees of the Council and of the local and school communities that they serve. Many have provided service at their current crossing point for several years and are well known figures in communities.

Because of the impracticalities of relocation, the lack of evidence to suggest that road traffic accidents are more likely, and the feedback received from our SCPs, the service concludes that all SCPs who wish to remain in place at their current crossing points, will remain there until such time as they choose to resign or retire from service

Should it be an SCP's wish to relocate from their current crossing point, or the service identifies an opportunity that is mutually acceptable, the service will consider that relocation, as it would in any other instance in such a scenario.

The service standard in place for the School Crossing Patrol service for financial year 2023/24 will be updated to reflect the conclusions above.