

COUNTY COUNCIL – 24 SEPTEMBER 2020
NOTICE OF MOTION

**NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER
18.1**

Proposed by Councillor Jackie Porter and seconded by Councillor Malcolm Wade:

“This Council notes that:

- As people are being instructed to return to school and to work this Autumn, the national Government is encouraging everyone to walk or cycle where possible instead of taking public transport or returning to their cars.
- The Government has announced a £250 million “Emergency Active Travel Fund” for temporary infrastructure to enable safe cycling and walking – of which Hampshire has received £860,000 and hopes to receive a further £3,450,000.
- The Transport Secretary issued new Statutory Guidance on 9 May to all Highways Authorities, requiring them to deliver “transformative change” within an urgent timeframe.
- Measures listed under the Statutory Guidance include (but are not limited to) ‘pop-up’ cycle facilities, widening footways, “school streets” schemes, and reducing speed limits.
- The guidance further states that “measures should be taken as swiftly as possible, and in any event within weeks, given the urgent need to change travel habits before the restart takes full effect.”
- “School streets” schemes, which close the roads outside schools during drop-off and pick-up times, have the multiple aims of: improving road safety for pupils, encouraging active travel to school/ modal shift out of cars, and improving the air quality and environment at the school gates, and are very effective for enabling social distancing outside schools.

This Council further notes that:

- Prior to Covid-19 related changes, “school streets” schemes were successfully introduced or were being trialled at multiple local authorities across the UK.
- Since the announcement, enthusiasm for “school streets” has sky-rocketed, with many more councils introducing these schemes before schools reopened and multiple NGOs calling for the introduction of “school streets” to manage social distancing at the school gate.
- Progressive councils are introducing the measures under their own considerable statutory powers, making experimental traffic orders where necessary.
- Hampshire County Council has already made a number of road alterations to assist with active travel and social distancing associated with shops, but none specifically targeted at schools.

- It has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to positively impact travel choices, including the associated benefits on health, air quality and road safety.

This Council resolves to:

1. Work with districts, schools and local partners to swiftly identify those schools in the county that could put a “school streets” scheme in place.
2. Work with districts, schools and local partners to enable all schools that wish to take part in the “school streets” scheme to do so – taking advantage of experimental traffic orders and new statutory guidance over fast-tracked Traffic Regulation Orders where necessary.
3. Measure air quality around a sample of schools in all six districts at child-head height to identify the level of air pollution children are being exposed to at school drop-off and pick-up.
4. Pilot additional measures to improve air quality near schools in 2020/21, such as ‘living green walls’ and tree planting.”