

**Consultation on proposed changes to the road crossing patrol service (November 2016)**

**Overview**

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to make sure that their child gets to school. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows us to put in place road crossing patrols to help pupils get to school safely. You might know road crossing patrol staff as ‘lollipop’ men and women. We currently fund and manage 96 road crossing patrols across Norfolk, at a cost of approximately £270,000.

There is national guidance about running road crossing patrols, which includes criteria for assessing whether or not a site needs a patrol. When a member of road crossing patrol team resigns, our current practice is to assess the site they work at against the criteria. If the site no longer meets the threshold for having a road crossing patrol we remove it.

We don’t have to provide road crossing patrols by law, this is a service we choose to provide. The current financial challenges and reductions in our budget mean that we have to look again at all of our services. As part of our review of this service, we have monitored all 96 road crossing patrols to assess which still meet the criteria for having a patrol.

We are proposing to implement a new policy of only continuing to provide road crossing patrols at sites which meet the criteria for having one. If this policy were to be implemented, it would mean that 38 road crossing patrols would be removed. We would offer road safety awareness support to schools affected by our proposal; this would be on an ongoing basis to ensure all new starters in reception are covered.

**Why we are consulting**

We want to know:

1. Whether you agree or disagree with our proposal.
2. What impact our proposal would have on you and your family.
3. Your ideas about how we could provide the service and save money.

**Background information**

It is the legal responsibility of parents and carers to make sure that their child gets to school. The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 allows us, the County Council, to put in place road crossing patrols to help pupils get to schools. We don’t have to provide road crossing patrols by law, but where there is one in place we are responsible for making sure it operates safely. This means that we are responsible for the following:

* Monitoring of all road crossing patrol sites
* Providing a uniform for members of staff, as specified by the Road Traffic Act
* Recruitment and selection (including safeguarding checks)
* Training
* Risk assessments
* Liaising with the local Police
* Handling complaints
* Providing relief for members of staff when they are ill.

**Road Safety GB guidance**

There is [national guidance](http://www.roadsafetygb.org.uk/online-shop/92.html) produced by Road Safety GB (formerly the Local Authority Road Safety Officer’s Association) about running road crossing patrols. We use the guidance to decide how often we monitor our road crossing patrols and the criteria we take into account when calculating if a site meets the threshold for having a patrol.

Here are some examples of the critieria we take into account when we monitor our patrols:

* Number of primary school children crossing at the site, accompanied and unaccompanied by an adult (the guidance states that sites having less than 15 children crossing should not be considered for a road crossing patrol)
* Number and type of vehicles passing through the site over the time period being monitored (the busiest 30 mins of the morning patrol)
* Width of road / footpaths
* The vicinity of a site to busy junctions
* Visibility (bends in the road, and obstructions such as foliage and signage)
* Whether there are speed bumps, raised platforms, speed restrictions, formal crossings (such as zebra, pelican, puffin and toucan crossings) and safety bars outside of schools
* “Refuges” in the middle of a road (these help children to cross each lane separately)
* Flashing lights / Wig Wags

**Our proposal**

Norfolk County Council, like other local authorities, follow the guidelines developed by Road Safety GB. When a member of road crossing patrol team resigns, our current practice is to assess the site they work at against the criteria. If the site no longer meets the criteria for having a road crossing patrol we remove it.

We don’t have to provide road crossing patrols by law, this is a service we choose to provide. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to make sure that their child gets to school. The current financial challenges and reductions in our budget mean that we have to look again at all of our services. We don’t believe our current approach is sustainable. We want a clear, consistent and fair policy for deciding when we will continue to provide a road crossing patrol.

We are proposing to implement a new policy of only continuing to provide road crossing patrols that meet the threshold for having one. We would continue to regularly monitor all of the sites to check if they still meet the threshold, in addition to reassessing them when a member of staff resigns. If this policy were to be implemented, it would mean that we would continue to provide 58 road crossing patrols, but that 38 would be removed.

We have looked at accident reports on or near to the affected sites for the last six years. There have been a total of 29 reported incidents near to the 38 sites in that time, of which four involved pedestrians. One of our own road crossing patrol staff was involved in an incident when they thought that a car wasn’t going to stop. A young person (not primary age) failed to correctly use a pelican crossing. One child was not using either the road crossing patrol or the pelican crossing, but the incident happened near to it. One child was injured at 4.22pm, over half-an-hour after the school crossing patrol had finished.

The remaining incidents involved two and four wheeled vehicles.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Here is a list of the road crossing patrols that would be removed:

* All Saints Academy School, Stoke Ferry
* Astley Primary School, Melton Constable
* Bacton Primary School
* Bluebell Primary School, Norwich
* Cawston Church of England Primary Academy School
* Colman Infant & Junior Schools, Norwich
* Cromer Junior School
* Dereham Church of England Junior Academy School
* Dersingham Primary School
* Fairhaven Church of England VA Primary School, South Walsham
* Garrick Green Infant Primary School, Norwich
* Heacham Infant & Nursery School
* Heacham Junior School
* Hilgay Riverside Academy, Downham Market
* Homefield Church of England VC Primary School, Bradwell (both patrols)
* Kelling Church of England Primary School
* Lingwood Primary Academy School
* Lionwood Infant & Nursery School, Norwich
* Lionwood Junior School, Norwich
* Loddon Junior School, Norwich
* Magdalen Gates Primary School, Norwich
* Mile Cross Primary School, Norwich
* Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy, Belton
* Necton Primary School
* Nelson Academy, Downham Market
* Ormesby Village Infant School
* Ormesby Village Junior School
* Sporle Primary Academy School
* Sprowston Junior School
* St. Andrews Church of England Primary School, North Lopham
* St Georges Primary School, Great Yarmouth
* St. Mary’s Community School, Beetley
* Stalham Infant School (both patrols)
* Walpole Cross Keys Primary School
* Walsingham Primary School
* West Winch Primary School

Appendix A is the list of the 58 patrols that meet the threshold for having a patrol. Appendix B is the list of the 38 patrols that do not meet the threshold, and it includes the reasons why we propose to remove each one.

We would offer additional support to all the affected schools if this policy were to be implemented. Whenever we remove a road crossing patrol, we work closely with colleagues in our Road Safety team to make sure the school are offered road safety awareness support. This offer of support includes visits from Road Safety Officers to provide guidance to pupils and parents / carers about road safety.

**Other options considered**

When developing our proposal we looked into how road crossing patrols are funded and operate in other parts of the country, and we considered the results of previous feedback about the service. Here are the other options that we have considered:

**Stop the service all together**

Stopping the service completely would make the necessary budget saving (although there would be redundancy costs for all patrols and the manager of the service). However our priority is the safety of the pupils attending school. The criteria for assessing whether or not a site needs a patrol, are widely used by councils because they are a recognised way of assessing the risk faced by pupils getting to school safely. We do not want to stop an existing patrol at a school where it continues to meet the criteria for having one.

**Continue the service as it is**

If we chose to continue to the service as it is, other parts of Children’s Services or the County Council would need to save money.

**Subcontract the service**

We could subcontract the service to one or more organisations to run. Our staff would be transferred to them using TUPE. The law says that the County Council would remain responsible for making sure the patrols run safely. This means that we would still need a budget for:

* Supporting recruitment
* Training
* Providing equipment
* Regular monitoring of all the sites
* Managing all issues relating to safeguarding
* Managing the contract(s)

We do not believe that this option is viable. We don’t think that other organisations would want to run the service because they would have to take on all the employment liabilities and costs, such as pension costs, continuous service and redundancy costs.

We do not think it would be an efficient way to run the service. Any organisation we subcontracted to would need to put in place management arrangements for the service and the County Council would need to develop capacity to manage the contract(s).

**Sponsorship or funding from other organisations**

We don’t believe this option is viable. We would expect sponsorship or funding provided by others to cover all the employment liabilities and costs, such as pension costs, continuous service and redundancy costs, not just the salary costs. This option has not been successfully implemented in other parts of the country. Schools are not allowed to use their funding (called the Dedicated Schools Grant) to employ road crossing patrol staff.

We want a clear, consistent and fair policy for deciding when we will provide a road crossing patrol. We don’t believe it is appropriate to fund sites that do not meet the threshold for having a road crossing patrol.

**Your views**

We would like your views on our proposal. In particular we want to know:

1. Whether you agree or disagree with our proposal.
2. What impact our proposal would have on you and your family.
3. Your ideas about how we could provide the service and save money.

Our consultation starts on 15 November 2016 and runs until 8 January 2017.

You can respond online at: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/roadcrossingpatrols>

The Children’s Services Committee will consider the results of this consultation at their meeting on 24 January 2017, and make a decide whether or not to take this proposal forward.

Our county councillors will consider the consultation responses we receive very carefully. In particular, they will take into account:

* The impact of any proposal on individuals, groups or communities and in particular on people identified as having 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010. The protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.  As well as this equality impact assessment, councillors will consider the impact of proposals on rural areas
* The views of people and stakeholders consulted
* The evidence of need and what is proven to work effectively and well
* The financial and legal positions and any constraints at the time
* Any potential alternative options, models or ideas for making the savings.

If the committee decides to implement this proposal, the road crossing patrols would be cease to operate from Friday, 31 March 2017.

**Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.**



**Road Crossing Patrol consultation feedback form**

1. **Do you agree or disagree with our proposal? Please select one answer.**

Strongly agree 🞎

Agree 🞎

Neither agree nor disagree 🞎

Disagree 🞎

Strongly disagree 🞎

**Comments:**

1. **What impact would our proposal have on you and your family?**
2. **Do you have any ideas about how we could provide the service and save money?**
3. **Are you responding as...? Please select one only.**

A child who goes to one of the schools affected by our proposals 🞎

The parent / carer of a child who goes to one of the schools affected by our proposals 🞎

Someone who works for one of the schools affected by our proposals 🞎

An individual / member of the public 🞎

On behalf of an organisation 🞎

A Norfolk County Councillor 🞎

A district or borough councillor 🞎

A town or parish councillor 🞎

**If you are responding on behalf of another organisation, what is the name of the organisation, group or business? Please write your answer here:**

1. **This question is just for children who go to one of the schools affected by our proposals, their parents / carers, and people who work for one of the schools affected by our proposals.**

**Please tell us which school or schools you go to, your child or children go to, or which school you work for. Select all that apply.**

All Saints Academy School, Stoke Ferry 🞎

Astley Primary School, Melton Constable 🞎

Bacton Primary School 🞎

Bluebell Primary School, Norwich 🞎

Cawston Church of England Primary Academy School 🞎

Colman Infant & Junior Schools, Norwich 🞎

Cromer Junior School 🞎

Dereham Church of England Junior Academy School 🞎

Dersingham Primary School 🞎

Fairhaven Church of England VA Primary School, South Walsham 🞎

Garrick Green Infant Primary School, Norwich 🞎

Heacham Infant & Nursery School 🞎

Heacham Junior School 🞎

Hilgay Riverside Academy, Downham Market 🞎

Homefield Church of England VC Primary School, Bradwell 🞎

Kelling Church of England Primary School 🞎

Lingwood Primary Academy School 🞎

Lionwood Infant & Nursery School, Norwich 🞎

Lionwood Junior School, Norwich 🞎

Loddon Junior School, Norwich 🞎

Magdalen Gates Primary School, Norwich 🞎

Mile Cross Primary School, Norwich 🞎

Moorlands Church of England Primary Academy, Belton 🞎

Necton Primary School 🞎

Nelson Academy, Downham Market 🞎

Ormesby Village Infant School 🞎

Ormesby Village Junior School 🞎

Sporle Primary Academy School 🞎

Sprowston Junior School 🞎

St. Andrews Church of England Primary School, North Lopham 🞎

St Georges Primary School, Great Yarmouth 🞎

St. Mary’s Community School, Beetley 🞎

Stalham Infant School 🞎

Walpole Cross Keys Primary School 🞎

Walsingham Primary School 🞎

West Winch Primary School 🞎

**About you**

Personal information, confidentiality and data protection

We will process any personal information we receive from you in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.  This means that Norfolk County Council will hold your personal data and only use it for the purpose for which it was collected, being this consultation.  We use this information to see how representative the feedback is of Norfolk’s population.  We also use it to see if any particular groups of people are especially affected by our proposals.  Under our record management policy we will keep this information for five years.

We will also, under normal circumstances, not pass your personal data on to anyone else.  However, we may be asked under access to information laws to publish or disclose some, or all, of the information you provide in response to this consultation, including any personal information.  We will only do this where such disclosure will comply with such relevant information laws which include the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

1. Are you...?

Male 🞎

Female 🞎

Prefer to self-describe (please specify below) 🞎

Prefer not to say 🞎

If you prefer to self-describe please specify here:

1. How old are you? Please select one only.

0-15 🞎

16-29 🞎

30-44 🞎

45-64 🞎

65-84 🞎

85+ 🞎

Prefer not to say 🞎

1. Do you have any long-term illness, disability or health problem that limits your daily activities or the work you can do? Please select one only.

Yes 🞎

No 🞎

Prefer not to say 🞎

1. How would you describe your ethnic background? Please select one only

White British 🞎

White Irish 🞎

White other 🞎

Mixed 🞎

Asian or Asian British 🞎

Black or Black British 🞎

Chinese 🞎

Prefer not to say 🞎

Other ethnic background - please describe below 🞎

1. What is the first part of your postcode? (e.g. NR4) Please write your answer here:

You can respond online at: <https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/consultation/roadcrossingpatrols>

Paper responses to this consultation can be sent to: **Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.**

However, if you want to help the council save money please use a stamp and send to this address: Stakeholder and Consultation Team, Norfolk County Council, Ground floor - south wing, County Hall, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DH

**Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.**

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|  | If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us on: 0344 800 8020Email: haveyoursay@norfolk.gov.uk and wewill do our best to help |

1. This paragraph was amended on 30 November 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)