

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education Committee	Subject Curricular Transport In Special Schools
From: Director of Education	
Date: 19 March 2001	
Ref: MON/LW/NR	

Purpose of Report

This is a report on the use of transport in special schools in the course of the school day. It follows a petition received regarding this provision. This report provides members with information on the outcomes of management action in this area.

Recommendations

The education committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report



Members wishing further information about this report should contact:

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Curricular Transport in Special Schools

Report by Director

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The education committee of 31 August 2000 instructed the director of education to report on the use of transport in special schools in the course of the school day following a petition received regarding this provision.
- 1.2 Historically, a number of special schools had used buses provided by Internal Transport and which remained at the schools all day to take pupils to a range of activities in the course of the school day. However, only a few schools benefited from this and there was no apparent difference between the special schools that had access to this and those which did not. Some schools accessed this transport in addition to their own school minibuses funded through the school's own resources and fund-raising. For others, these buses provided the sole means of transport beyond taking pupils to and from school.
- 1.3 While providing a valuable additional resource, this transport was not part of the authority's statutory provision and no financial arrangements had been made for its provision.
- 1.4 As a result, a budgetary overspend of approximately £60,000 was projected for the current financial year, £51,000 of which was attributed to the provision of these all day buses.
- 1.5 The establishment of the review was broadly welcomed by all those involved with special educational needs, reflecting as it did an increasing concern that the range of learning and career advancement opportunities enabled during the years of statutory education generally failed to be mirrored in the facilities and options available to disabled young persons beyond their school education.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 A working group of head teachers from a range of special schools was established to provide advice on the utilisation and management of this transport resource.
- 2.2 In addition, schools were asked to provide details of their current use of internal transport during the school day.
- 2.3 Subsequent to this a strategy was identified for the ongoing provision and management of this resource in consultation with the head teachers involved.
- 2.4 As a result, those schools which traditionally used such transport have taken management action to organise its use within a clear budgetary framework in the context of the school's delegated budget. To enable schools to make the transition to this arrangement, the department allocated £27,341.86 in the current financial year.
- 2.5 Bothwellpark, Mavisbank and Redburn schools continue to use this transport regularly for curricular activities on a pay-as-you-use basis.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

The education committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of the report.

