

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education Resources Sub-Committee	Subject: Health, Safety and Security 2001/2002 risk management training in schools and request to negotiate a contract to carry out property risk assessments in schools
From: Director of Education and Director of Finance	
Date: 12th September 2001	
Ref: MM/IR/LA	

Summary

This report advises the committee of arrangements to provide risk management training in schools and seeks approval to negotiate a contract to carry out property risk assessments in schools.

Recommendations

The education resources sub-committee is recommended;

- (a) to note the arrangements being made to provide risk management training at schools, in line with the Accounts Commission recommendations;
- (b) to approve, subject to the satisfactory completion of pilot surveys at schools in Airdrie, the negotiation of a contract with the council's property insurers, Zurich Municipal, to carry out property risk assessment surveys at all educational establishments, in line with the Accounts Commission recommendations.

Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

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Michael O'Neill

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Health, Safety and Security 2001/2002 : Arrangements for risk management training in schools and request to negotiate a contract to carry out property risk assessments in schools

Report by the Director of Education and the Director of Finance

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report advises the committee of arrangements to provide risk management training in schools and seeks approval to negotiate a contract to carry out property risk assessments in schools.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting on 29th August the education committee noted an Accounts Commission report on property risk management in schools, "A Safer Place Revisited" and that the education department was pursuing recommendations made in the report through the corporate Educational Standing Group on School Crime.

3 PROPERTY RISK MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

- 3.1 The Accounts Commission report highlighted the need for planned, systematic and sustained risk management in schools and to provide key staff in schools with appropriate risk management training.
- 3.2 The Educational Standing Group on School Crime has considered these matters and has agreed on the implementation of appropriate property risk assessments in schools and the provision of risk management training for heads of establishment and senior managers in schools.
- 3.3 Work has now been initiated on the preparation of the risk management training course and it is anticipated that the training will be available to all schools on a phased basis early in the new calendar year.
- 3.4 The council's property insurers, Zurich Municipal, have offered to provide, at a most competitive cost, property risk assessments at all educational establishments using their own trained risk assessment surveyors. Zurich Municipal are at present providing this service for other authorities in Scotland and in England and are carrying out pilot surveys at present at schools in the Airdrie area.
- 3.5 The risk assessment surveys aim to;
- identify schools most vulnerable and at risk from vandalism, fire and personal attack
 - assess the effectiveness of existing fire, security and visitor control methods and recommend improvements
 - prioritise schools according to the level of risk they face, allowing targeting of spending on high risk schools

3.6 Following a satisfactory outcome of the pilot surveys at present being carried out in Airdrie, it is proposed to negotiate a contract with Zurich Municipal to extend the risk assessment surveys to all educational establishments across North Lanarkshire. The cost of the contract is estimated at £35,000 - £40,000 and funds are available within the education department's existing health and safety budgets. It is expected that most of the surveys would be carried out during the current financial year.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The education resources sub-committee is recommended;

- (a) to note the arrangements being made to provide risk management training at schools, in line with the Accounts Commission recommendations;
- (b) to approve, subject to the satisfactory completion of pilot surveys at schools in Airdrie, the negotiation of a contract with the council's property insurers, Zurich Municipal, to carry out property risk assessments surveys at all educational establishments, in line with the Accounts Commission recommendations.

MM/IR/LA
11/9/01