

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE	Subject: TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL : HAD COACHES
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	
Date: April 2004	Ref: MM/KF/CW

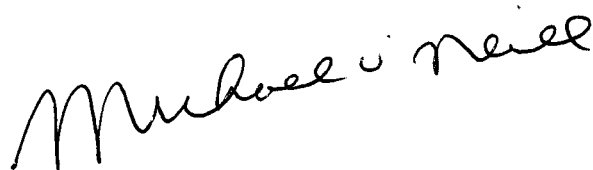
Purpose of Report

The report details that HAD Coaches failed to carry out school contracts on Friday 5 March resulting in pupils not being transported to school. It details the actions taken by the education department.

Recommendations

The education (resources) sub committee is recommended:

- i) to note the cancellation of the school transport contract with HAD Coaches and the subsequent action taken by the education department.



Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on 01236 812337
Murdo Maciver, Head of Education Provision, on 01236 812269

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL : HAD COACHES, SHOTTS

Report by the Director of Education

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On Friday morning 5 March 2004 the education department received a telephone call from SPT advising that HAD Coaches, Shotts had withdrawn from school contract transport contracts and that 300 pupils would not be transported to school. No notice was given.
- 1.2 The following contracts and schools were affected:
- Contract No 4043 Morningside Primary – (57 pupils) – pupils were brought to school by parents
- Contract No 4573 Allanton Primary – (26 pupils) – pupils were brought to school by parents
- Contract No 4012 Clyde Valley High – (56 pupils) – pupils walked to school from Newmains
- Contract Nos 4561 & 4573 Calderhead High – (158 pupils) – the pupils walked to school, used public transport or were brought by parents. A number of pupils did not attend school.
- 1.3 This failure had potentially serious consequences. In particular, the safety of pupils was put at risk and the authority failed to meet its statutory requirements that morning.

2. ACTION TAKEN BY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- 2.1 Temporary contracts were set up by SPT on 5 March to ensure that transport was organised to ensure that all pupils were transported home. The additional cost to transport pupils was £463 per day.
- 2.2 The transport contracts held by HAD were immediately cancelled and arrangements have been made to initiate debt recovery proceedings against HAD.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The education (resources) sub committee is recommended:
- i) to note the cancellation of the school transport contract with HAD Coaches and the subsequent action taken by the education department.