

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB COMMITTEE	Subject: SCHOOL TRAVEL PLANS
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	
Date: September 2004	Ref:

Summary

The purpose of this report is to update members on the Scottish Executive initiative to fund school travel co-ordinator posts in all of Scotland's Local Authorities.

Recommendations

The Education (resources) sub committee is recommended to :-

- (1) to note the progress made in the Scottish Executive school travel plan initiative
- (2) request an evaluation on progress at a future date.

Michael O'Neill

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North Lanarkshire Council : Department of Education

Joint Report by Director of Education & Director of Planning and Environment

School Travel Plans

1 Background

- 1.1 The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 70 of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2001, offered to make available to all Scottish local authorities, grant assistance for the purpose of employing one or more School Travel Co-ordinators. The amount of grant made available to North Lanarkshire Council is up to £48,100 in 2003/2004 and £64,000 in 2004/2005 and 2005/2006.
- 1.2 The Department of Planning and Environment in association with the Department of Education appointed a School Travel Co-ordinator at the end of 2003. In addition, an Assistant School Travel Co-ordinator was appointed in August this year. This post is funded by the Scottish Executive. The co-ordinators are based within the Road Safety Education team in Brandon Street, Motherwell.
- 1.3 The strategic aims of the School Travel Co-ordinator are as follows:
- To promote the health and environmental benefits of active school travel choices;
 - To promote best practice in individual schools;
 - To advise on the technical aspects of identified potential options;
 - To liaise with school travel teams;
 - To co-ordinate the work of travel teams within any cluster of schools;
 - To assess the applicability of recommendations in the Scottish School Travel Advisory Group report in their council areas;
 - To co-ordinate school travel work across all relevant local authority departments. to make recommendations on the spending of local Authority Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets allocations and the provision of facilities, related to school travel
 - To liaise with school travel co-ordinators from other areas where appropriate.

The initiative should encourage and promote sustainable and environmentally friendly travel choices for school-related trips thereby encouraging better longer term travel choices, and reduce the volume of school-related vehicular trips, and enhance road safety.

2 Progress to date

- 2.1 The School Travel Co-ordinators work closely with the school communities and advise in the development of School Travel Plans. In developing a Travel Plan, specific data relating to that school is obtained. Pupils are involved in the collection of information on transport to and from school.
- 2.2 This work has lead to the development of a software package which will be operational by the end of September 2004.

2.3 To date travel plans are presently being developed for the following schools:-

- Cumbernauld Primary,
- St Andrew's Primary,
- Condorrat Primary
- Dykehead Primary
- Aitkenhead Primary
- Mossend Primary
- Dunrobin Primary,
- Baird Memorial Primary,
- Muir Street Primary and Golfhill Primary.

In addition the school travel co-ordinator is arranging visits to the following schools at the request of the head teacher who has identified specific problems with a view to developing individual travel plans.

- Noble Primary
- St Gerard's Primary
- Shawhead Primary
- St Timothy's Primary

3 Progress Development

3.1 It is intended that each school will develop an individual Travel Plan supported by the school travel co-ordinator. A template will be supplied to each school. The plan will include the following specific information relative to the school.:

- Pupil survey report
- Local School Travel Information
- GIS Map showing location of all pupils
- GIS Map showing catchment of school
- Agreed 'safer' routes to school

In addition, the school may wish to add any other relevant text, images and photographs.

3.2 The travel plan initiative will give priority to primary schools in the next two years.

4. Recommendations

The Education (resources) sub committee is recommended :-

- (1) to note the progress being made through this Scottish Executive initiative, the cross department working necessary to deliver the strategy and the appointment of an Assistant School Travel Co-ordinator.
- (2) request an evaluation on the progress at a future date.