

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 6

To: Education (Resources) Sub-Committee	Subject: School Travel Plans: Progress Report
From: Director of Education Director of Planning and Environment	
Date: November 2005	
Ref: MM/DP	

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Scottish Executive School Travel Plan initiative.

Recommendations

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

- (i) note the progress made in respect of the Scottish Executive's School Travel initiative;
- (ii) request a further report on the future development of the initiative.
- (iii) refer this report to the Planning & Environment committee.

Michael Neill

Members wishing further information about the paper should contact:

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North Lanarkshire Council : Department of Education

School Travel Plans : Progress Report

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

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2003 the Scottish Executive made available to all Scottish local authorities grant assistance to establish school travel co-ordinators posts for a three-year period. The Scottish Executive have now extended the funding for an additional 2 years, through to and including 2007/2008.
- 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, and an assistant school travel co-ordinator in August 2004. The co-ordinators are based within planning and environment's road safety education team in Brandon Street, Motherwell.
- 1.3 The overall aim of the initiative is to promote more sustainable and environmentally friendly travel choices for school-related journeys, encourage better longer term travel choices, reduce the volume of school-related vehicular trips, and enhance road safety.

2. Progress to Date

- 2.1 A school travel survey software package has been commissioned to identify current travel-to-school patterns which will assist in the production of school travel plans. This package has been developed jointly between the education and planning and environment departments and SEEMIS. It is intended that the software will be operational from December 2005.
- 2.2 Training for delegates from an initial group of 17 schools committed to the development and implementation of school travel plans has been completed. It included an introduction to the travel plan principles and an overview of the software. The schools that will pilot this new software are listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 A school travel plan template will form part of the software package. This will assist schools in formulating their plans by highlighting the key issues to address.
- 2.4 In consultation with various schools a number of improvement engineering measures were identified and schemes developed to alleviate them.

The works have been funded by the budgets allocated to the planning and environment departments for school travel initiatives. The full list of schemes carried out to date is shown in Appendix 2. It is worth noting that the schemes at Mossend Primary in Bellshill and Aitkenhead Primary in Uddingston involved very substantial works.

- 2.5 The Walk-to-School initiative has been strongly promoted at a number of primary schools, nursery schools and nursery centres. It is encouraging to note that a significant number are taking part in this scheme, with some organising their own Walk-to-School weeks outwith the national week, arranged in May 2005 and October 2005.

National Walk to School Week 23-27 May 2005

- Number of participating establishments - 116
- Number of non-participating establishments committed to future involvement - 13
- Future involvement - number of establishments in target group - 25

- 2.6 The PARK SMART campaign continues to help discourage indiscriminate parking at and around many primary schools, and alleviate the associated safety concerns. This campaign is reinforced at intervals throughout the school year, to remind parents and carers of the potential road safety concerns associated with parking on school yellow zig zag keep clear lines. The PARK SMART campaign received very high profile publicity through local radio and on television.
- 2.7 The Safer Routes to School programme continues to address the road environment around and on the approaches to identified primary schools. Works are currently underway at Thornlie Primary School with the scheme due to be completed by November 2005.

A list of schools with completed safer routes to school projects is shown in Appendix 3.

- 2.8 The programme for the introduction of part-time mandatory 20mph speed limits at schools outwith established 20's Plenty areas is being progressed. These 20mph speed limits are enacted by the illumination of flashing signs, which are programmed to operate at the start and end of the school day, as well as at lunch times, if applicable. A list of the schools to have these part-time limits implemented is shown in Appendix 4.
- 2.9 The Scottish Executive Development Department recently published the research findings document "Evaluation of the School Travel Co-ordinator Initiative" dated 28th September 2005. The review included: a policy review, results from a questionnaire, telephone and face to face surveys with nearly 200 people across Scotland; and case studies in six selected areas. The research provides an assessment of the impact of the School Travel Co-ordinator (STC) Initiative, including the scope and quality of advice provided by STC'S and the management of the scheme. It also provides recommendations for the future development of the STC tole. Details of key findings from the report will be reported to the committee at a future meeting.

3. Sustainability Implications

- 3.1 The development of school travel plans is consistent with council and government policies to promote other sustainable transport modes as alternatives to car dependency. This also supports various health initiatives, through the encouragement of children to take more regular exercise, by walking or cycling to school, as well as developing long-term habits for walking and cycling. This ties in with the aims of the Active Schools programme.
- 3.2 The schemes will assist the Council to meet its obligations under the Road Traffic Reduction Act.

4. **Recommendations**

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

- (i) note the progress made in respect of the Scottish Executive's School Travel initiative;
- (ii) request a further report on the future development of the initiative.
- (iii) refer this report to the Planning & Environment committee.

INITIAL GROUP OF SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN SCHOOLS

Alexandra Primary School, Airdrie

Cumbernauld Primary School, Cumbernauld

Dunrobin Primary School, Airdrie

Golfhill Primary School, Airdrie

Holy Family Primary School, Bellshill

Holytown Primary School & Nursery Class, Holytown

Lawmuir Primary School, Bellshill

Mossend Primary School & Nursery Class, Bellshill

Noble Primary School, Bellshill

Old Monkland Primary School & Nursery Class, Airdrie

Richard Stewart Nursery Centre, Airdrie

Shawhead Primary School, Coatbridge

St. Andrew's Primary School & Nursery Class, Cumbernauld

St. Dominic's Primary School & Nursery Class, Airdrie

St. Gerard's Primary School & Nursery Class, Bellshill

St. Maurice's High School, Cumbernauld

Tollbrae Primary School, Airdrie

PROGRAMME OF ENGINEERING MEASURES

2004/05

Mossend Primary School, Calder Road Bellshill Completed 2004/05
Drop off / Pick up Area. Provision of staff / visitors car park.

Westfield Primary School, Westfield Drive, Cumbernauld Completed 2004/05
Upgrade and new access to car park

2005 /06

Holy Family Primary School, Hope Street, Mossend, Bellshill Completed Aug-05
Traffic Calming on Hope Street at / around the school entrance

Aitkenhead Primary School, Lincoln Avenue, Uddingston Completed Aug-05

Works include:

Extension to staff / visitors car park. Relocation of perimeter fence (rear of school). Improve and light two footpaths (rear of school). Construction of mobility-impaired dropped kerb access. Provision of bike racks. Removal of existing bushes and shrubs. Reprofilling ground along previous line of school fence.

Further Proposals:

TBC

Possible provision of footpath to the side of the school (identified by **Community Services**). Request by school to have the playground extended, associated with the possible work on the footpath to the side of the school (**Education Department**).

Bike Racks in Schools Completed Jul-05
83 bike racks installed in 59 schools

Newmains Primary School, School Road, Newmains Completed Jul-05
Re-lining at school entrance (zig-zags and relocation of bus bays)

Coltness High School, Mossland Drive, Wishaw TBC
Possible provision of footpath to the rear of the school.

Shawhead Primary School, Neidpath Avenue, Coatbridge TBC
Signage on approach to the school.

Golfhill Primary School, Ballochney Street, Burnfoot, Airdrie TBC
Re-lining at school entrance

Viewpark Primary School, Laburnum Road, Viewpark, Uddingston TBC
Provision of staff / visitors car park

SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROJECTS

Completed Projects

Eastfield Primary School, Cumbernauld

Sacred Heart Primary School, Bellshill

St. Bartholomew's Primary School, Coatbridge

Dykehead Primary School, Shotts

Projects in Progress

Thornlie Primary School, Wishaw

Next Project

St. Timothy's Primary School, Coatbridge

INITIAL SCHOOLS TO HAVE PART-TIME MANDATORY 20MPH LIMITS IMPLEMENTED

St. Michael's Primary School, Muirhead

Glenmanor Primary School, Moodiesburn

St. Maurice's High School, Cumbernauld

St. Andrew's Primary School and Cumbernauld Primary School, Cumbernauld

Westfield Primary School and St. Francis of Assisi Primary School, Cumbernauld

Clarkston Primary School, Airdrie

Sikeside Primary School and St. Stephen's Primary School, Coatbridge

Dunrobin Primary School, Airdrie

St. Dominic's P.S. and Petersburn P.S., Airdrie

Caldervale High School, Airdrie

Holy Family Primary School and Mossend Primary School, Bellshill

Cleland Primary School, Cleland

Brannock High School, Newarthill

Coltness Primary School and St. Aidan's Primary School, Wishaw

PLANNED SECOND PHASE OF SCHOOLS TO HAVE PART-TIME MANDATORY 20MPH
SPEED LIMITS IMPLEMENTED (2005-06)

Alexandra Primary School, Airdrie
Greengairs Primary School, Greengairs
New Monkland Primary School, Glenmavis
St. Kevin's Primary School, Coatbridge
Chapelside Primary School, Airdrie
Kirk O'Shotts Primary School, Salsburgh
Cambusnethan Primary School, Wishaw
Netherton Primary School, Wishaw
Cathedral Primary School, Motherwell
Our Lady & St. Francis Primary School, Carfin
Glencairn Primary School, Motherwell
Taylor High School, New Stevenston
Balmalloch Primary School, Kilsyth
Chryston High School, Chryston