

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Education (Resources) Sub-Committee	Subject : School Travel Plans : Progress Report
From: Director Of Education	
Date: November 2006 Ref: MM/AS	

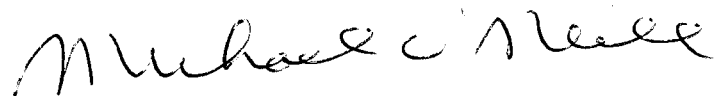
Purpose of Report

This report is a progress update on the School Travel Plan initiative.

Recommendations

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

- (a) note the progress made in respect of the Scottish Executive's School Travel initiative
- (b) request periodic reports on the future development of the initiative.



Members wishing further information about this report 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-ordinator posts for a three-year period. This has been extended for an additional 2 years, to 2007-2008.
- 1.2 The planning and environment department, in association with the education department, appointed a school travel co-ordinator at the end of 2003, and an assistant school travel co-ordinator in August 2004. These posts are based with the road safety education team in the Brandon Street office, 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.
- 1.4 The development of school travel plans is consistent with council and government policies to promote sustainable transport modes as alternatives to car dependency. It also supports health promotion, for example 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. It is also consistent with the aims of the Active Schools programme.
- 1.5 The school travel plans will assist the council in meeting its obligations under the Road Traffic Reduction Act.

2. Progress to Date

- 2.1 A school travel survey software package has been developed by SEEMIS to identify current travel-to-school patterns. This will assist school staff in the preparation of school travel plans.
- 2.2 Training for representatives from the initial tranches of schools involved in the implementation of school travel plans has been completed. The training included an introduction to the travel plan principles and an overview of the software. These schools are listed in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that over time all schools will be involved in travel planning. This would provide both an accurate record of travel to school habits and the development of more sustainable travel choices.
- 2.4 The software allows schools to collect information about current travel to school, identify any concerns about routes and potential barriers to changing travel patterns. A school travel plan template forms part of the software package and assists schools to complete their travel plans by highlighting the key issues to address.

- 2.5 At a number of schools, travel concerns have been identified. In response, various schemes have been completed, including associated engineering improvement measures.

For example, the improvements at Kirk O'Shotts Primary School are detailed in Appendix 2.

- 2.6 The Walk-to-School initiative has been strongly promoted at all primary schools, nursery schools and nursery centres. It is encouraging to note that most are taking part in this scheme, with some organising their own Walk-to-School weeks outwith the national week, arranged in May 2006 and the international week in October 2006.

- 2.7 To encourage walking to school on a more regular basis the 'Smart Feet' scheme has been developed. It is aimed at the junior and senior stages of the primary school and provides pupils with the opportunity to record their walking activities for the year. Supporting resources will be issued to all primary schools for the start of session 2007-2008.

- 2.8 The 'Smart Feet' Scheme partners are:

North Lanarkshire Council Planning & Environment Department

Traffic & Transportation Team Leader

Road Safety Officer

Policy & Safety Team (SMARTways) Technician

School Travel Co-ordinators

North Lanarkshire Council Education Department

Contracts & Provisions Assistant Principal Officer

Active Schools Manager

Quality Improvement Officer (Eco Schools)

Quality Improvement Officer (Health Promoting Schools)

Holytown Primary School Head Teacher

Lanarkshire Health Board

Senior Health Promotions Office

- 2.9 The PARK SMART campaign continues to discourage unreasonable parking around many primary schools, and alleviate the associated safety concerns. This campaign is reinforced throughout the school year and reminds parents of the potential road safety concerns associated with parking on school yellow zig zag lines. The PARK SMART campaign also receives very high profile publicity through local radio and on television.

- 2.10 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, and at lunch times, if applicable. A list of the schools to be included is shown in Appendix 3. Appendix 3 also identifies schools with a mandatory 20mph speed limit.

3. Recommendations

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

- (a) note the progress made in respect of the Scottish Executive's School Travel initiative
- (b) request periodic reports on the future development of the initiative.

School Travel Plans**PHASE 1**

Alexandra Primary
 Cumbernauld Primary
 Dunrobin Primary
 Golfhill Primary
 Holy Family Primary
 Holytown Primary & Nursery Class
 Lawmuir Primary
 Noble Primary
 Richard Stewart Nursery Centre
 St. Andrew's Primary & Nursery, C'nauld
 St. Dominic's Primary & Nursery
 St. Gerard's Primary & Nursery

PHASE 2

Auchinloch Primary
 Condorrat Primary & Nursery Class
 Dykehead Primary
 Kirk O' Shotts Primary
 Knowetop Primary
 Newarthill Primary
 Newmains Primary & Nursery Class
 Old Monkland Primary & Nursery Class
 St. Helen's Primary & Nursery
 Thornlie Primary
 Tollbrae Primary & Nursery Class

PHASE 3

Aitkenhead Primary
 Baird Memorial Primary & SEN Nursery
 Bargeddie Primary
 Cathedral Primary
 Chapelhall Primary
 Christ The King Primary
 Glengowan Primary & Nursery
 John Paul 2 Primary
 Lammermoor Primary & Nursery class
 Mossend Primary & Nursery Class
 Shawhead Primary
 St. Aidan's Primary
 St. Aloysius Primary & Nursery
 St. Mary's Primary & Nursery, C'nauld
 St. Mary's Primary C/cruix
 St. Patrick's Primary & Nursery class, Coatbridge
 St. Teresa's Primary
 St. Timothy's Primary & Nursery class
 Whitelees Primary

Kirk O'Shotts Primary School Travel Plan

Development Process

The current travel behaviour and concerns of the school community were obtained from the school travel survey software and through consultations and discussions with pupils, parents/carers, school staff, and the wider community.

The information was collated and formed the basis of the travel plan.

Key Outcomes

Many issues and comments were raised in relation to travelling to and from Kirk O'Shotts Primary School. The main points are listed below.

- The travel plan highlighted the need for an improved/ widened footpath from the village to the school, suitable for use by pedestrians and cyclists, for the explicit purpose of trying to encourage more children to walk or cycle to school. In response to this outcome the Policy & Strategy Team have prepared drawings for the construction of a new footpath/ cyclepath with new lighting along the full length, the cutting back of vegetation to provide an open aspect and appropriate signing and lining.
- The council's Environmental Projects Team is preparing a wider environmental improvement scheme for the area in consultation with their access officers. This scheme seeks to establish a new car park on an area of ground immediately opposite the school, in order to resolve the problem of insufficient parking provision; it would include a turning circle and drop-off point. Additionally, the environmental improvement of adjacent sites, including a wildlife garden and an area with dumping problems is being considered. This will support the development of a safer walking / cycling route to the school.
- A range of measures are required to effectively encourage change. Kirk O'Shotts Primary School is looking at a number of 'soft' and 'physical' measures along with the use and development of educational resources and initiatives within their Plan.

APPENDIX 3

Schools to have variable mandatory & mandatory 20mph speed limits implemented, as at November 2006.

Airdrie Academy	Central	Mandatory
John Paul II	Southern	Mandatory
Pentland School	Northern	Mandatory
St. Aidan's High	Southern	Mandatory
St. Serf's PS	Central	Mandatory
Balmalloch PS & Nursery	Northern	variable installed
Brannock High	Southern	variable installed
Caldervale High	Central	variable installed
Cathedral PS	Southern	variable installed
Christ the King PS	Southern	variable installed
Chryston High	Northern	variable installed
Clarkston PS	Central	variable installed
Cleland PS	Southern	variable installed
Clyde Valley High	Southern	variable installed
Coltness & St. Aidan's PS	Southern	variable installed
Cumbernauld PS & St. Andrew's PS	Northern	variable installed
Dunrobin PS	Central	variable installed
Glencairn PS	Southern	variable installed
Glencryan	Northern	variable installed
Glenmanor	Northern	variable installed
Holy Family & Mossend PS	Southern	variable installed
Netherton PS	Southern	variable installed
Our Lady & St. Francis PS	Southern	variable installed
Overtown PS	Southern	variable installed
Sikeside PS & St Stephen's PS	Central	variable installed
St. Francis of Assisi PS	Northern	variable installed
St. Kevin's PS	Central	variable installed
St. Maurice's High	Northern	variable installed
St. Michael's PS	Northern	variable installed
Taylor High	Southern	variable installed
Westfield PS	Northern	variable installed
Woodlands PS	Northern	variable installed