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AGENDA ITEM No. _____
NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
REPORT

To: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE – OPERATIONAL PROCEDURE FOR CALL-OFFS AND UNCOVERED CROSSINGS
From: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES		
Date: 23 May 2005	Ref: GP/LH	

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with an update of the procedure for call-offs and uncovered crossings within the school crossing patrol service.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The success of the innovative Mobile Patrol Service has been previously reported to committee and this is now a permanent feature of the school crossing patrol service. There are currently twenty seven mobile patrollers in post who are employed throughout the authority to provide cover for vacancies arising from staff turnover and for sickness absence.
- 2.2 It was reported to the August 2002 committee that Strathclyde Joint Police Board had informed all local authorities of their decision to withdraw police assistance to the school crossing patrol service. A subsequent letter from the Chief Constable dated 25 June 2002 to the Chief Executive outlined the definition of emergency cover that may be provided. The criterion established was that where a Division agrees to supply cover to a school crossing this would be restricted to one patrol period.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 It was determined that an "Operating Procedure for Call-offs and Uncovered Crossings" was required to assist schools and inform the local community served by a school crossing patrol (attached at Appendix One).
- 3.2 A circular was produced and distributed through the Education Department to inform Head Teachers of the procedure. A sample letter is provided to allow schools to inform parents. As this was completed in December 2002 it is intended to repeat this exercise.

4. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- 4.1 The background papers to this report are held with the Department.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Committee note the contents of the report.
- 5.2 That the report be referred to the Education Committee and to the Planning and Environment Committee for information.



NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL SERVICE

PROCEDURE FOR CALL-OFFS AND UNCOVERED CROSSINGS

- 1 Assistant Co-ordinator is on duty from 0700 to take calls from patrollers unable to attend due to sickness or other reason.
- 2 In the event of a confirmed uncovered crossing Assistant Co-ordinator will then contact mobile patroller to cover crossing until further notice.
- 3 If all mobile resources have been committed, Strathclyde Police will be contacted by fax to provide emergency cover. Assistant Co-ordinator to follow up fax with telephone call to confirm police assistance will be provided.
- 4 Assistant Co-ordinator to contact school(s) concerned by fax that police assistance is restricted to a single patrol period, thereafter the crossing will be uncovered until a mobile patroller is available. Assistant Co-ordinator to follow up fax with telephone call to school to confirm receipt.
- 5 If Strathclyde Police are unable to assist with emergency cover then this will be recorded in the daily diary by the Assistant Co-ordinator. Assistant Co-ordinator to contact school(s) by fax that crossing will be uncovered until a mobile patroller is available. Assistant Co-ordinator to follow up fax with telephone call to school to confirm receipt.
- 6 The Co-ordinator will prioritise patrol sites when full cover cannot be provided within available resources. This may mean that sites which have an additional crossing facility (Pelican, Puffin or Zebra Crossing) may be left uncovered while the patroller operating at these sites is temporarily moved to another uncontrolled crossing.
- 7 The school will be notified when the patrol service will resume.

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Co-ordinator

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23 October 2002