

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Housing Regeneration and Environmental Services

Community Safety and Environmental Services Committee : 4 October 2006

Subject: Assessment of School Bus Pick-Up Points

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the development of a methodology for the assessment of pick-up points used for school transport, and to outline the proposed development of this work.

2. Background

- 2.1** As a result of Scottish Executive guidance relating to school transport, West Dunbartonshire Council initiated research into the methods which should be used to undertake engineering assessments of school bus pick-up points and give consideration to the hazards associated with such points.
- 2.2** MVA Consulting were appointed to undertake this work by a project team comprising officers from Education Services, HRES and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT). The executive summary of this commission is shown in Appendix A.
- 2.3** The project was highlighted to the Children's Services Committee earlier this year.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The methodology developed provides a robust procedure for assessing the suitability of locations as places for children to wait for school transport (bus or taxi). The results of the assessment of every location are brought together into a list of recommended actions.
- 3.2** Through discussion with the project partners it has been agreed that the 100 or so remaining pick-up points will be assessed over the next few months once an appropriate source of assessment expertise has been appointed.
- 3.3** It is anticipated that carrying out the remaining assessments will result in a list of recommendations which will be prioritised and works undertaken as funding permits.
- 3.4** This assessment work will be closely linked to the planning for the forthcoming changes to the schools estate.

3.5 SPT regard this as an exemplary piece of innovative work and wish to roll out the methodology across the other local authorities in the Strathclyde area. SPT also wish to publicise the work at a national level in order to share it with a wider range of authorities. It has been agreed by the project partners that the project team will be involved together in initial promotion of the work taking advice from SPT on the most appropriate means of sharing the work. It is envisaged that this will involve officers from WDC attending up to 3 seminars/conferences over the next year.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Some £10,000 has been spent to date on this project funded by SPT through grant funding to WDC.

5.2 Funding to implement recommended improvements will be considered from existing budgets in future years and a potential contribution from SPT.

6. Conclusions

6.1 West Dunbartonshire Council has taken the lead in developing a project which is of key importance not just to this authority but to all local authorities around the country. Whilst the approach is innovative, it is straightforward and practical, providing confidence that the Council is doing all it can to reduce risk to children during the journey to and from school.

7. Recommendations

7.1 **It is recommended that Committee note the consultant's report in Appendix A, and approve the proposed roll-out across West Dunbartonshire.**

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Date: 4 September 2006

Wards Affected: All
Appendix: Assessment of School Pick up Points – Executive Summary
Background Papers: None
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