

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE –
18 AUGUST 2003**

**REPORT ON: SCOTTISH SCHOOL TRAVEL ADVISORY REPORT AND
FUNDING FOR SCHOOL TRAVEL CO-ORDINATORS**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 523-2003

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of the Education Committee the establishment of a local authority School Travel Co-ordinators post.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The committee is recommended to:

- i) note the establishment of this post (subject to approval by the Personnel and Management Services Committee)
- ii) require that the Director of Education provide appropriate updates on progress in this area.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The allocation of the Scottish Executive to Dundee City Council is £19,100 in 2003/04 and £26,000 in each of the following two financial years. The funding will cover expenditure on payroll, travel and subsistence and training for co-ordinators.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope. School travel represents a significant element at peak travel times with corresponding impacts in congestion and pollution.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Eliminate discriminatory practices and procedures, which may exclude people from participation due to disability.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Scottish Executive announced that funding would be made available to Scottish local authorities to fund the recommendation to establish local authority School Travel Co-ordinators who will actively promote the health and environmental benefits of active school travel choices.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 7.1** Many Primary schools are involved in cycle training and the “ Walkwise Programme” of road safety training. Parent volunteers who have been trained by the Road Safety Officer from Tayside Police deliver this. However the uptake by pupils is not consistent across all schools.

8.0 PROPOSAL

- 8.1** As recommended in the Scottish School Travel Advisory Report the Director of Education will:

- Consult early in session 2003/04 with Head Teachers on the School Travel Advisory Report proposals and as appropriate seek the views of pupil and parent groups
- Employ a School Travel Co-ordinator who can promote the health and environmental benefits of active school travel choices. The co-ordinator will work with the Leisure & Arts and Planning & Transport departments to support and encourage public transport/walking/cycling biased school travel habits.
- Devise an action plan to take forward the recommendations including identifying and supporting key people in schools, providing training and liaising with other departments.

- 8.2** It is envisaged that the duties of School Travel Co-ordinators will include:

- Working with schools to develop an individual travel plan, with long and short-term targets and objectives
- Promoting best practice within schools
- Promoting the health and environmental benefits of active school travel choices.
- Building on the physical activity initiative as part of Scotland’s Physical Activity Strategy.
- Consulting and involving parents and pupils in the discussion of safe routes to schools
- Building on the Health Promoting School Agenda

- 8.3** The School Travel Co-ordinator will be part of the Education Department but whilst reporting to the Director of Education, will be part of a team with representatives from Leisure & Arts and Planning & Transportation. Both of these departments employ specialist officers with input in the Paths for All initiative and Cycling Walking and Safer Streets.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1** The Chief Executive, the Assistant Chief Executive (Management), the Director of Planning & Transportation, the Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

17 July 2003