

CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL

Report to Council of November 6th 2008

**Subject: School Crossing Patrols in Clackmannanshire:
Disestablishment of posts**

Prepared by: Rosemary Champion, Support Services Manager

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report lists the School Crossing Patrol posts to be disestablished as a result of budget cuts approved for 2008/09 and the reasons for their selection for disestablishment.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. It is recommended that Clackmannanshire Council approve the immediate disestablishment of the seven posts listed in Appendix 4.
- 2.2. Clackmannanshire Council is also asked to approve the disestablishment, as opportunity arises due to staff turnover or relocation, of SCP sites that are, or become, supported by light controlled crossings, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Posts currently supported by light controlled crossings are listed in Appendix 2.

Council is asked to note that the continuing provision complies with (Appendix 1), or exceeds (Appendix 3), guidance issued by Local Authority Road Safety Officers Association.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1. As part of the process for setting its budget for 2008/09, Clackmannanshire Council approved the disestablishment of nine school crossing patrol (SCP) posts, to deliver a saving of £25,000 in a full financial year. A further report to Council was requested listing the posts which had been identified for disestablishment and the justification for this. Further examination of existing posts has led to this paper recommending the disestablishment of seven posts only.
- 3.2. The School Crossing Patrol Services is a permissive, not a statutory function. The Local Authority Road Safety Officers Association (LARSOA), in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) produce guidance for Local Authorities on the management of school crossing patrols.

- 3.3. School Crossing Patrol personnel, when in the correct uniform and displaying the correct crossing pole, have the power to stop traffic. In effect, a School Crossing Patrol performs the same function as a zebra or light controlled crossing.
- 3.4. Even where a SCP is provided, parents remain responsible for ensuring their children's safety, just as they do when a zebra or light controlled crossing is provided. Some parents may regard the provision of a SCP as an indication that the Authority is assuming responsibility for the safety of their children on their whole journey to and from school but, clearly, the responsibility for ensuring the safe passage of children to and from school rests with the parent. S/he must decide when his / her child is mature enough to undertake the journey to school without adult supervision.
- 3.5. Clackmannanshire Council took over the management of School Crossing Patrols Service from Central Scotland Police in 1997. The Council has not formally approved criteria for either establishing or disestablishing SCP, so for the purposes of this exercise the criteria in the LARSOA Guidelines have been applied, since these form the basis for the Council's management of the SCP Service.
- 3.6. The LARSOA criteria for the establishment (and therefore, conversely, the disestablishment) of school crossing patrols is based on the PV^2 count (P =number of pedestrians, V = number of vehicles). The PV^2 count provides a measure of both the potential conflict and delays experienced by pedestrians by taking account of the number of pedestrians and vehicles at a particular site at a particular time. Furthermore, a series of "Adjustment factors", based on known site conditions can be applied to the base PV^2 count, where the PV^2 count does not clearly determine the need, or otherwise, for a Patrol site.
- 3.7. The LARSOA procedure for determining whether or not a Patrol Site is justified comprises six parts:
 1. Pedestrian and vehicle count
 2. Calculation of PV^2 rating
 3. Comparison with adopted criteria threshold level
 4. Consideration of Adjustment Factors (where appropriate). Adjustment Factors include the width of roads and pavements, sight lines, traffic speeds and age of children crossing
 5. Recalculation and recheck of PV^2 against the adopted criteria threshold level
 6. Consideration of additional facilities e.g. zebra or light-controlled crossings
- 3.8. The LARSOA guidance for Step 3 and 5 recommends that if the PV^2 count is above 4 million, then a Patrol site is justified. A PV^2 count of less than

1,333,333 does not justify a Patrol site. Where counts fall between these two levels, further investigations and application of Adjustment Factors is recommended.

- 3.9. All 32 SCP sites were reviewed in 2006; at that time 14 sites had a PV² count of under 4 million, with 7 of those being under 1,333,333. The 14 sites have been reassessed during May and September 2008, to provide up to date information. In all cases, a PV² count has been carried out, the site assessed and the appropriate Adjustments applied. The information is listed in the appendices.
- 3.10. The assessment identifies eight posts that, under the LARSOA assessment criteria, have PV² counts of under 1,333,333. A further four sites have PV² counts of between 1,333,333 and 4,000,000. Adjustments have been applied in all cases but all twelve posts remain below the threshold for a post.
- 3.11. Since 1996, Clackmannanshire Council has invested significant resources in establishing other pedestrian crossings including zebra and light controlled crossings, such as pelican, puffin and toucan crossings. These crossings carry out the same function as School Crossing Patrols, but are available to the community 24/7.
- 3.12. Currently, fourteen School Crossing Patrols operate on either a zebra (8) or light controlled crossing (6). LARSOA guidance states that "having both (School Crossing Patrol and light controlled crossing) in place at the same site is a duplication of resources and may be confusing for drivers". The guidance further states that "School Crossing Patrols should not be located on light controlled crossings unless there are exceptional circumstances such as poor driver behaviour (e.g. red light running) or large groups of children crossing and concern exists regarding their age and ability to use the facility correctly".
- 3.13. Five of the twelve low count posts are located directly outside schools and it is recognised that they contribute positively to the general management of traffic around the school, while on duty.
- 3.14. In conclusion, it is recommended that seven of the twelve sites with counts under 4,000,000 be disestablished, retaining the sites at:
 - Grange Road, at school gates, St John's PS
 - Forth Crescent, outside St. Mungo's PS
 - Lochies Road, at school gates, Clackmannan PS
 - The Orchard, outside St Bernadette's PS
 - Fir Park, at school gates, Tillicoultry

The four appendices have details of posts recommended for disestablishment and retention

- 3.15. It is further recommended that sites which are, or become, supported by light controlled crossings be disestablished as the opportunity arises i.e. as existing staff leave the service or are transferred to other sites, unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- 3.16. In terms of the implications for existing staff, Unison was briefed on 21st April about the possible implications of the budget decision. On 1st May, all School Crossing Patrol staff were invited to meet with management to be briefed on the position at that time. All staff have been issued with letters outlining the Council's determination to avoid compulsory redundancies and seeking interest in voluntary severance.
- 3.17. Currently, six of the existing 32 posts are vacant, including four posts recommended for disestablishment. Existing permanent staff were invited to express interest in voluntary severance; seven have expressed interest and figures are being calculated. In the event of posts being disestablished, some staff may be relocated and will receive excess travel expenses, in accordance with the Council's policy. In relocating staff, personal circumstances will be taken into consideration.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1. Having taken the decision to reduce the number of School Crossing Patrols posts, the LARSOA guidance has been applied to local circumstances and seven posts have been identified for immediate disestablishment.
- 4.2. There is a duplication of resource where SCP are deployed at light-controlled crossings which should be eliminated unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

5.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. See attached.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Council has already agreed to a reduction in the budget for School Crossing patrols of £25,000 from April 2008. The disestablishment of these seven posts will allow a significant reduction in expenditure. If these posts are not disestablished, the budget for School Crossing Patrols will overspend by around £20,000.
- 6.2. The disestablishment of further posts on light controlled crossings, as opportunity arises, will allow further savings to be realised or release funding for investment in additional crossings or child pedestrian training.

6.3. Declarations

(1) The recommendations contained within this report support or implement Corporate Priorities, Council Policies and/or the Community Plan:

- **Corporate Priorities (Key Themes)** (Please tick)

- Achieving Potential
- Maximising Quality of Life
- Securing Prosperity
- Enhancing the Environment
- Maintaining an Effective Organisation

- **Council Policies** (Please detail)

- **Community Plan (Themes)** (Please tick)

- Community Safety
- Economic Development
- Environment and Sustainability
- Health Improvement

(2) In adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. (Please tick)

(3) The full financial implications of the recommendations contained in this report are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. (Please tick)

Head of Service

Director



Report to Council

To accompany all Reports to Council

To: Head of Administration And Legal Services

Author: Rosemary Champion, Support Services
Manager

Date: 24th September 2008

Service: Services to People: Support Services

Date of Meeting: November 6th, 2008

Title of Report: School Crossing Patrols in
Clackmannanshire: Disestablishment of
posts

Recommendation that the attached report be:

1. Given unrestricted circulation

(tick appropriate box)

2. Taken in private

By virtue of paragraph ____ of schedule 7A, Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Appendices attached to this report (if none, state "none")

1. List of School Crossing patrol sites showing nine posts recommended for disestablishment
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

List of Background Papers (if none, state "none")

1. None
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Note: All documents specified must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of the meeting at which the report is considered.

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Appendix 1

Posts to be retained on the basis of having a PV2 count of greater than 4 million and not being currently supported by a light controlled crossing

Location	School	Crossing Type	PV ² count am
Alloa Rd at Muirside Rd, Tullibody (B9096)	Banchory, St Serfs and Abercromby PS	Zebra Crossing	22,082,416
Brook St, Alva (B908)	Alva PS		17,749,732
Stirling St/Norton St, Alva	Alva PS	Zebra Crossing	16,689,645
Sunnyside Rd/Ashley Terr, Alloa	Sunnyside PS	Zebra Crossing	15,624,248
High St, Tillicoultry	Tillicoultry PS		13,952,848
Alloa Rd at school, Fishcross	Fishcross PS	Zebra Crossing	11,172,875
Crossing at Abercromby PS, Tullibody	Abercromby PS		10,762,360
Fairfield/Pompee Rd, Sauchie (B908)	Craigbank PS		9,367,844
Paton St/Tullibody Rd, Alloa (B9096)	Sunnyside PS	Zebra Crossing	8,715,152
Stirling Rd/Alexandra Dr, Alloa (A907)	St Johns PS		8,348,032
East Burnside/Bridge St, Dollar, (A91)	Strathdevon PS	Zebra Crossing	7,429,562
Claremont/Gean Rd, Alloa	Claremont PS		7,092,725
Stirling Rd near Baingle Brae, Tullibody	Abercromby PS and St Bernadette's PS	Zebra Crossing	4,948,864
Ashley Terr/Erskine St, Alloa	Sunnyside PS		4,758,711
14 posts			

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Appendix 2

School Crossing Patrol Assessments

Posts to be disestablished as they become vacant because they are now light controlled crossings

Location	School	Crossing Type	PV ² count am
Alloa Rd/Menstrrie Rd, Tullibody	Abercromby PS	Pelican Crossing	Busy
Stirling St, Alva at Crossing	Alva PS	Pelican Crossing	20,771,586
Alloa/Stirling Low road, Station Rd, Alloa (A907)	Abercromby PS	Pelican Crossing	18,606,429
Clackmannan Rd, Alloa, at Alloa Centre (A907)	Park PS	Puffin Crossing	7,702,189
Main St/School Lane, Menstrrie at Chemists	Menstrrie PS	Toucan Crossing	4,752,018
Main St/Beechwood, Sauchie	Craigbank PS and Deerpark PS	Pelican crossing	4,504,149
6 posts			

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Appendix 3

Posts to be retained although PV2 counts are below 4 million, on the basis of position directly outside school gates and in recognition of the contribution to overall traffic management

Location	School	Crossing Type	PV ² count am
The Orchard/Abercromby Pl, Tullibody	Abercromby PS		1,611,114
Grange Road Alloa at St Johns PS	St Johns PS		1,128,758
Lochies Rd at school gate, Clackmannan	Clackmannan PS		498,276
Fir Park at school gates, Tilllicoultry	Tilllicoultry PS		344,630
Forth Cres, Alloa Mungo's PS	St Mungo's		229,991
5 posts			

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Appendix 4

Posts to be disestablished immediately on the basis of PV2 count below 4 million and location not at school gates.

Location	School	Crossing Type	PV ² count am
Greygoran/Newtonshaw, Sauchie	Craigbank PS		2,363,164
Stalker Av, Tillicoultry	Tillicoultry PS		1,537,647
Whins Rd/Argyll St, Alloa	Sunnyside PS		1,493,562
Alloa Rd/South Pilmuir Rd, Clackmannan	Clackmannan PS		637,585
Main St/Kirkwynd, Clackmannan	Clackmannan PS		399,494
Devon Rd/Kilincraigs Rd, Alloa	Park PS		355,647
Alloa Rd/Kirkwynd, Clackmannan	Clackmannan PS	Zebra Crossing	194,619
7 posts			

