

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT



To: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	Subject: Staffing - Filling of vacant Environmental Health Officer posts
From: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	
Date: 16th February, 1999 Ref: GB/TM	

PROPOSED DECISION

To note the report and agree to the proposal contained in the recommendation.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There will be no additional cost to the Department's budget through the implementation of this proposal.

REPORT

The Department has recently experienced difficulty with the staffing levels of Environmental Health Officer posts. There appears to be a shortage of trained staff available to fill posts possibly due to the reduced number of local authorities in Scotland since Reorganisation with a consequential drop in the number of Environmental Health Officer's being trained. This problem is currently exacerbated by a number of authorities attempting to recruit additional staff using some of the Pennington funding.

The Department has advertised several times with only limited success. Some staff have been recruited and further interviews will take place in the next few weeks.

The purpose of this report therefore is to seek the Committee's approval to fill any vacancies still remaining after the next interview date with graduates holding the appropriate Degree in Environmental Health. These graduates will then be trained for the statutory 48 week period to allow them to sit the final REHIS examination which is required for full qualification as an Environmental Health Officer. These posts will then revert to Environmental Health Officer posts as per the existing establishment.

RECOMMENDATION

To agree that any unfilled Environmental Health Officer posts, following the next interview date be filled by graduates with an Environmental Health Degree and thereafter be trained by the Department for a period of 48 weeks to allow them to sit the final REHIS examination.

M'Kenzie L. Hutton