

To: POLICY & RESOURCES (FINANCE & CUSTOMER SERVICES) SUB COMMITTEE		Subject: CHRISTMAS GIFT SCHEME 2012
From: HEAD OF E-GOVERNMENT AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 07 August 2012	Ref: IMcK/PT	

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides details of the Christmas Gift Scheme 2012, which will be operated by North Lanarkshire Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 To be eligible, recipients of the gift must be a resident in the Council area and aged 60 or over.
- 2.2 The payment of the Christmas Gift is made where the claimant can produce evidence supporting their residence within North Lanarkshire and their age. Detailed below are examples of acceptable evidence and claimants need to bring one of the documents from each of the categories:-

Acceptable Evidence	Age	Residence
Birth Certificate	√	
Passport	√	
Driving License	√	√
Rent Book		√
Council Tax Notice		√
Utilities Bill		√
DWP letter re-Pension		√
Bank Statement		√
Heating Allowance Letter	√	√
Bus Pass/ National Entitlement Card	√	

- 2.3 The Christmas Gift Scheme provides a payment of £15 to each eligible applicant. On average there are approximately 57,500 applicants each year receiving a total of £862,500.
- 2.4 The 3 weekend dates have, in previous years, attracted an average of 11,000 applicants each weekend providing £0.5m of payout to 60% of the claimants. This provides a means of collection solely for Christmas Gift distribution and does not interfere with the normal recurring business. It is proposed to open on the 3 Saturday's detailed below and the Monday - Thursday access will be utilised for the remaining applicants, approximately 6,000 per day to attend and receive their Christmas Gift.

The distribution points noted in Appendix 1 will be open on the following dates:-

Day	Date	Time
Saturday	17 th November 2012	9.30am - 2.00pm
Saturday	24 th November 2012	9.30am - 2.00pm
Saturday	1 st December 2012	9.30am - 2.00pm
Monday - Thursday	3 rd -6 th December 2012	9.30am - 4.00pm

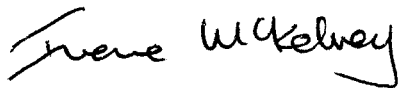
The opening times will be extensively advertised locally, on the Council website, on the Public Information Notices website www.tellmescotland.gov.uk and also within a range of Council Offices.

- 2.5 To ensure the safety of the public and staff, cash payments will only be made via the Council's existing cash facilities within the First Stop Shop network, which benefit from the inbuilt security features necessary to comply with the terms of our insurers.
- 2.6 To assist with areas that previously had a local service, i.e, Stepps, Auchinloch and Harthill, we will accept applications locally at the times detailed on Appendix 1. However no cash will be paid to the applicants who will be issued with a cheque direct to their home address.
- 2.7 As in previous years the Council will continue to work with Care Organisations co-ordinating distribution to their residential clients.

3. **Recommendations**

3.1 The Committee is asked to note:

- (a) The distribution proposal for the Christmas Gift Scheme 2012, as detailed in Section 2.



Head of E-Government & Service Development

For further information please contact Irene McKelvey, on tel. ext. 2532 or Peter Tolland, Customer Services Manger on 01698 274385

Appendix 1: Senior citizens Christmas gift scheme 2012

Senior citizens Christmas gift scheme 2012	
Hours of opening	Additional Payment /Application Points
<p>Saturday:- 17/11/12, 24/11/12 , 01/12/12 9.30am - 2.00pm</p> <p>Monday:- 5/12/11 to Thursday 8/12/11 - 9.30am - 4.00pm</p>	<p>Monday 3rd December - Thursday 6th December</p> <p>Hours of Opening 9.30am - 4.00pm except where stated</p>
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Area	Motherwell Area
<p>Cash Office, 214 Forth Walk, Cumbernauld Cash Office, Parkfoot St, Kilsyth</p>	<p>Area Registration Office, 20/22 Motherwell Rd Bellshill 9.00am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-4.00pm</p> <p>Senior Citizens Centre, West Main St Harthill (applications only) (Wednesday 5th December only) 10.00am -12.30pm 1.30pm - 4.00pm</p>
Monklands Area	Strathkelvin Area
<p>Cash Office, 10 Bank St, Airdrie Cash Office, 126 Main St, Coatbridge</p>	<p>Auchinloch Public Hall, Langmuirhead Rd (applications only) Auchinloch (Wednesday 5th December only) 9.15am -2.15pm</p> <p>Stepps Primary School & Cultural Centre, (applications only) 10 Blenheim Ave, Stepps 9.00am -2.30pm</p>
Motherwell Area	
<p>Cash Office, 26 Motherwell Rd, Bellshill Cash Office, 69/71 Merry St, Motherwell Cash Office, 135 Burnhead St, Viewpark Cash Office, 236 Main St, Wishaw Cash Office, 162/164 Station Rd, Shotts</p>	
Strathkelvin Area	
<p>Cash Office, Blackwoods Cres, Moodiesburn</p>	