

**North Lanarkshire Council
Report**

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: Training Assistance Grant
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 31.07.96	Ref: BM/REP.059	

1.0 Introduction

1.1 North Lanarkshire Council operate the Training Assistance Grant (TAG) to provide unemployed residents within North Lanarkshire with the opportunity to access employment related training. This report seeks to advise the Committee of the nature and impact of the TAG Programme as operated within North Lanarkshire from April 1 to June 30, 1996.

2.0 Background

2.1 The TAG programme provides financial assistance in the form of Grant assistance to unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire to provide access to employment related training where such training is otherwise unavailable. The TAG programme is directed toward residents who have been unemployed in excess of three months with the maximum grant award provided being £500, which is paid directly to the Training provider. The scheme is designed to be largely reactive to allow the funding of relevant training to meet the employment needs of the individual applicant and the job market.

2.2 The TAG Programme consists of two interlinked initiatives, the Lifford Small Grant Fund - a reactive Fund to meet individual employment related training, and an ESF course with ring fenced funds to deliver Heavy Plant Training for ten individuals under the same eligibility as the Lifford Fund, and designed as a result of employment market and individual demand, monitored through the Lifford Fund.

3.0 Uptake of the TAG Programme in the North Lanarkshire Area

3.1 Monitoring of TAG uptake from 1 April - 30 June 1996 shows that a total of 13 unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire have received assistance through the TAG Programme.

3.2 Projecting forward, in light of the take-up levels to-date, it is envisaged that the TAG Budget will be fully utilised in the Financial year 1996-97, indeed it would be expected that demand shall exceed (resource led) supply.

TAG - Grant Awards April 1 - June 30, 1996

TAG Budget - £15,200

Spend-to-date - £9,500

Balance - £5,700

	Geographical area		
	North	Central	South
No. of Grants awarded	1	12	0
No. of applications pending	1	7	0
No. of applications withdrawn	1	7	0

3.3 The TAG Programme was previously operated by Monklands District Council prior to local government re-organization and therefore the awareness of the Programme in that area has possibly led to an imbalance in the take-up of the scheme in that area during this period. This though should be addressed as marketing and awareness is disseminated throughout North Lanarkshire.

3.4 The Southern Sector has a scheme known as the 'Generator Fund' delivered through Community Enterprise Motherwell, which provides assistance similar to that of TAG and therefore meets the demand in that area.

3.5 Uptake of the Programme, it should also be noted, has been influenced by a number of internal and external factors namely ; staff shortages within the Economic Development Unit, requirement for revised administration procedures to be put in place post reorganisation, training needs of staff to operate scheme, holiday period (allied with staff shortages) and funding agreements being finalised with Programme partners - Employment Services and ESF.

3.6 Discussion is at present ongoing with District Managers, Employment Services to enable the TAG programme to be delivered on an equitable basis throughout North Lanarkshire. It is anticipated that the next monitoring report to Committee will reflect this in the form of increased grant dispersal.

3.7 It is hoped to merge the Generator Fund and the TAG fund to provide a larger scale fund with equitable distribution across North Lanarkshire in the 1997/98 period.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee :

(i) Note the contents of this Monitoring Report for the TAG Programme, from 1 April 30 June 1996.

(ii) Note that Monitoring reports will be presented to Committee on a quarterly basis



Stanley C. Cook
Director of Planning and Development

For further information contact Gordon Smith, Head of Economic Development and Property