

AGENDA ITEM No. 26(d)

North Lanarkshire Council
Report

| | | |
|--|-----------------|---|
| To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE | | Subject: Training Assistance Grant - Monitoring Report |
| From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | | |
| Date: 31.07.97 | Ref: LT/REP.260 | |

1.0 Purpose of Report

This report seeks to inform the Committee of the uptake of the Training Assistance Grant (TAG) for the period 1 April - 30 June 1997.

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 Since the last report noted by Committee on 19 May 1997, Employment Service have informed the Council that they are unable to support the programme due to the re-structuring of programme development funding. Lanarkshire Development Agency have, however, agreed to contribute £10,000 which will cover the amount previously available from Employment Service. It has also been confirmed by Strathclyde European Partnership that £20,454 will be made available from the European Social Fund, increasing the total available budget for grant awards to £45,454.

3.0 Uptake of the TAG Programme in the North Lanarkshire Area

3.1 Monitoring of TAG uptake from 1 April - 30 June 1997 shows that a total of 33 unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire have received assistance through the 1997 TAG Programme.

3.2 Projections, in light of the take-up levels to-date, indicate that the TAG Budget will be fully utilised in the financial year 1997-98, indeed it would be expected that demand shall exceed (resource led) supply.

4.0 Financial Provision and Uptake

Income

Budget NLC- £15,000

Lanarkshire Dev. Agency Contr.- £10,000

ESF Contr.- £20,454

Total Budget - £45,454

Expenditure

TAG Spend-to-date - £13,999

TAG Balance - £31,455

Distribution by Geographical area

| | 1997 | | | | 1996 | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| | North | Central | South | Total | North | Central | South | Total |
| No. of Grants awarded | 3 | 18 | 12 | 33 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 13 |
| No. of app'ns pending | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 8 |
| No. of app'ns withdrawn /rejected | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 8 |

4.1 In the same period last year TAG was predominantly led by the Central area, as the scheme had been previously operated by Monklands District Council. As detailed above, the uptake of grants has now spread across all three areas more equitably. This is due to the programme being promoted and re-aligned to reflect unemployment levels within the divisions.

4.2 As Committee are aware, the Urban Programme funded 'Generator Fund' ceased with effect from 31 March 1997. The increased uptake of TAG within the Southern Division can be attributed to the fact that the previous Generator Fund client group have been re-directed to the TAG programme.

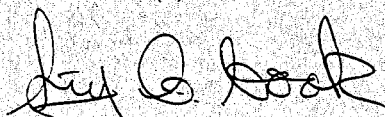
4.3 Discussion is at present ongoing with District Managers, Employment Services to enable the TAG programme to be delivered on an equitable basis throughout North Lanarkshire during the 1997-98 programme.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee :

(i) Note the contents of this monitoring report for the TAG Programme, for the period 1 April to 30 June 1997.

(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 John J Turley, Senior Economic Development Officer (Tel: 01236 616271)