

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANT (TAG) 1998-99
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 26 November 1998	Ref:LT / Rep 497	

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with a report for the Training Assistance Grant (TAG) programme for the period July - September 1998.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 The TAG Fund is designed to be a flexible and reactive training grant fund to provide assistance for unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire to undertake employment related training where such training is unavailable or inaccessible elsewhere. The TAG programme is directed toward unemployed individuals who have been out of work for at least three months. The maximum grant award is £650. Payment is made directly to the training provider.

3.0 1998/99 Programme

3.1 In total the budgetary provision for grant assistance to unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire, for this financial year is £44,838 with an additional £1,100 available for advertising. North Lanarkshire Council providing £20,320, Lanarkshire Development Agency providing £5,000 and the European Social Fund contributing £20,618.

3.2 Noted in Tables 1 to 3 are details of all applications received by the Economic Development Unit and Summerlee Training Resource Unit in terms of geographical location for the period April - September 1998 :-

TABLE 1 - APRIL - JUNE '98

AREA	APPROVED		REJECTED		TOTAL APPLICATIONS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
North	4	0	1	0	5	0
Central	7	0	1	0	8	0
South	8	2	0	0	8	2
Total	19	2	2	0	21	2

TABLE 2 - JULY - SEPTEMBER '98

AREA	APPROVED		REJECTED		TOTAL APPLICATIONS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
North	5	0	0	0	5	0
Central	8	2	2	0	10	2
South	9	0	3	0	12	0
Total	22	2	5	0	27	2

TABLE 3 - TOTALS (APRIL - SEPTEMBER)

AREA	APPROVED		REJECTED		TOTAL APPLICATIONS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
North	9	0	1	0	10	0
Central	15	2	3	0	18	2
South	17	2	3	0	20	2
Total	41	4	7	0	48	4

3.3 The total male trainees assisted to date is 41 and female trainees assisted is 4.

3.4 The total cost of approvals is £26,934. This equates to approximately 43% of available spend on the programme. Spend by division is noted in the table below.

Area	Expenditure
North	£4,142
South	£12,250
Central	£10,542
Total	£26,934

3.5 Given the current uptake of the programme, it is anticipated that a full spend on the programme will be achieved during the course of this calendar year. This will be influenced by the number of large scale redundancies which have recently been announced in North Lanarkshire.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (1) Note the contents of this report, and;
- (2) Note that progress reports will be submitted to Committee on a quarterly basis.


Stanley C Cook
Director of Planning and Development

5 November 1998