

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANT 1999/2000
From: ACTING DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 8 June 2000	Ref: DD/Rep.694	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the operation of the Training Assistance Grant Scheme (T.A.G.) for the period January to March 2000. The report also provides detail on the programme covering the financial year April 1999 - March 2000.

2 Sustainability

- 2.1 This programme meets the sustainable development policy adopted by the Council through Local Agenda 21 by addressing elements of Section 3 "Economy and Work" and Section 8 "Social Needs". In particular the scheme addresses the following areas:

- reducing poverty and low pay
- increasing employment opportunities for local people
- helping local and community based business to set up and grow

3. Introduction

- 3.1 The TAG Fund is designed to be a flexible and reactive training grant fund providing 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 or part of a mass redundancy. The maximum grant award is £650. Payment is made directly to the training provider.

4. 1999/2000 Programme

- 4.1 In total the budgetary provision for grant assistance to unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire for this financial year was £54,000. This was solely Council funding.
- 4.2 Details of all applications received by the Economic Development Unit during the quarterly period January to March 2000 is contained in Table 1 below.
- 4.3 Table 2 details applications received in the previous quarter, October to December 1999, and Table 3 provides the total in the financial year April 1999 to March 2000.
- 4.4 The information is further reduced to detail the impact of the programme in each sub-area of the North Lanarkshire Council geographical area.

TABLE 1 - JANUARY TO MARCH 2000

AREA	APPROVED		REJECTED		TOTAL APPLICATIONS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
North	10	32	1	-	11	32
Central	8	15	1	-	9	15
South	11	2	3	-	14	2
Total	29	49	5	-	34	49

TABLE 2 - OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1999

AREA	APPROVED		REJECTED		TOTAL APPLICATIONS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
North	2	-	2	-	4	-
Central	10	1	3	-	13	1
South	9	-	5	-	14	-
Total	21	1	10	-	31	1

TABLE 3 - APRIL 1999 TO MARCH 2000

AREA	APPROVED		REJECTED		TOTAL APPLICATIONS	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
North	17	32	6	1	23	33
Central	33	16	9	-	42	16
South	43	4	10	4	53	8
Total	93	52	25	5	118	57

4.5 As can be seen from Table 3 the total number of applications approved in the last financial year comprised of 93 male and 52 female. The average cost of training was £372.41 with a total spend on the programme of £54,000. This represents a budget maximisation of 100%.

5. Programme Analysis

5.1 Key points identify that the TAG programme achieved the following:

- **Quality training (SVQ Levels)**
- **High level of achievement**
- **Vast majority of trainees gaining middle level qualification**
- **Technical/Sectoral training**

5.2 Further evaluation of the performance of the 1999-2000 TAG programme is ongoing and will form the basis of a future report to the Economic Development Committee. This report will evaluate a wide range of performance indicators but will concentrate particularly on employment outcomes.

6. Additional Related Issues

6.1 TAG Review – Report from Working Group

6.2 Members are asked to note that there is a separate report on the review of TAG which will contain recommendations for the programmes future direction.

7. Recommendations

7.1 It is the recommendation of this report that the Committee:

- (i) Note the contents of this report and;
- (ii) Await future reports on the performance of TAG which will be submitted to Committee on a quarterly basis.
- (iii) Await a future report which will detail a complete evaluation of the 1999-2000 TAG programme.



Director of Planning & Environment

Date of Report: 5 May 2000

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