

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

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| To : Education Resources Sub-Committee | Subject : Further Education and Higher School Bursaries 2000-2001:<br>Performance Review |
| From : Director of Education           |  |
| Date : 03 May 2001                     |  |
| Ref : MM/AS                            |  |

**Summary**

This report reviews the budget performance of the further education and higher school bursaries for the period April 2000 to March 2001. It also includes statistics on bursary applications received and processed and the attendance of students in receipt of bursary support.

**Recommendations**

The education committee is recommended to:

- (a) note the performance of the further education and higher school bursaries budget for the financial year April 2000 to March 2001.
- (b) request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.



Members wishing further information about this report should contact

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## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Higher School and further Education Bursaries 2000-2001 - Performance Review

#### Report by the Director of Education

#### 1 Background

1.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and the Education Authorities Bursaries (Scotland) Regulations 1995 give education authorities the power to award bursaries to persons in education over the statutory school leaving age.

1.2 The policy framework adopted by authorities takes account of the legal regulations and COSLA guidelines. This includes the following principles.

- (a) the basic entitlement to be a higher school bursary for up to 2 years and support for one further course of study
- (b) no support to be made available by the local authority where alternative funding is available to the student. This includes courses at the incorporated further education colleges and courses supported by the Students Awards Agency for Scotland.
- (c) it is expected that vocational qualifications will be achieved after 1 year. However, up to three years support may be given to approved courses in specific areas, for example special needs.
- (d) students must fulfil specific residential requirements.
- (e) the bursary may include support for fees, maintenance, study expenses and travel. The level of award will take account of age, residential requirements, travel arrangements, marital status, dependent responsibilities, personal income and parental income.
- (e) payments will be dependent on satisfactory conduct, progress and attendance.

#### 2 Bursary Awards in 2000-2001

2.1 Table 1 is a detailed analysis of the award and payments made in 2000-2001.

**Table 1 – Bursaries in 2000-2001**

| Bursary Type      | Total Applications | Successful Applications | Budget (£) | Total Expenditure (£) |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Higher School     | 1195               | 927                     | 613,000    | 574,444               |
| Further Education | 4                  | 3                       | 134,800    | 82,119                |
| <b>Total</b>      | 1199               | 930                     | 747,800    | 656,563               |

## 2.2 Higher School Bursaries

In addition to the above awards, 184 higher school applications were refused. 156 of these were for income reasons. 28 applications were refused because of residential reasons or because the student had already been awarded a bursary for a full 2 years. A further 85 applications are still to be processed because not all information has been submitted.

The higher school bursary budget showed an underspend of £38,556. It should be noted that this is the result of bursary awards which were withdrawn because of the failure to meet the award conditions, particularly attendance.

## 2.3 Further Education Bursaries

In 1998-99 the council agreed that FE bursary applications from full-time students would be restricted to existing students other than those with special needs. Applications were received from 4 students with special needs in session 2000-2001. One application was subsequently withdrawn. The total cost of funding the remaining 3 students in session 2000-2001 is £81,356. The remaining £763 expenditure against this budget refers to maintenance paid to students whose courses ended in June 2000. Appendix 1 gives details of the full-time courses attended by the individual students and the levels of award given.

## 2.4 Attendance

Table 2 is a detailed analysis of attendance of students in the 3 equivalent monitoring periods in session 1999-2000 and session 2000-2001. In 2000-2001 the education committee approved a more demanding level for satisfactory attendance at 95% rather than the previous 90%.

**Table 2 – Attendance Comparison**

| Academic Session 1999-2000 |                    |   |     | Academic Session 2000-2001 |                    |   |     |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|-----|----------------------------|--------------------|---|-----|
| Period                     | No of applications | No and %age of bursaries stopped (Attendance < 90%) |     | Period                     | No of applications | No and %age of bursaries stopped (Attendance < 95%) |     |
| 19 Aug - 29 Oct 99         | 847                | 154   | 18% | 21 Aug – 27 Oct 00         | 781                | 240   | 31% |
| 1 Nov 99 - 21 Jan 00       | 801                | 215   | 27% | 30 Oct 00 – 19 Jan 01      | 702                | 274   | 39% |
| 24 Jan – 31 Mar 00         | 1016               | 207   | 20% | 22 Jan – 30 Mar 01         | 833                | 312   | 37% |

In the third period of session 2000-2001, the attendance level has improved marginally compared to the second period.

2.5 Deadlines for submission of applications.

The policy allows 2 months after the start date of the session for late bursary applications. In session 2000-2001 28 higher school bursary applications were received late, compared with 50 in session 1999-2000.

3 **Appeals**

3.1 A total of 23 cases have been passed to the Education (Joint Appeals and Bursaries) sub-committee between August 2000 and March 2001. Table 3 shows an analysis of the reason for appeal and the decision made by the sub-committee.

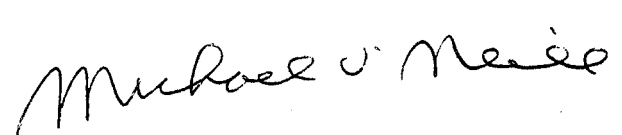
| Reason for appeal                                       | No of appeals submitted | No rejected | No fully / partially upheld |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Application for 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of support refused | 7                       | 6           | 1                           |
| Application submitted after deadline                    | 6                       | 2           | 4                           |
| Attendance below 95%                                    | 10                      | 6           | 4                           |

3.2 Appeal papers in respect of a further 9 cases are currently being prepared for submission to the sub-committee.

4 **Recommendations**

The education resources sub-committee is recommended to

- (i) note the performance of the further education and higher school bursaries budget for the financial year April 2000 to April 2001.
- (ii) request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee



MM/AS  
03 May 2001