

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE		Subject : Higher School Bursaries 2002-2003: Performance Review	
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION			
Date: 10 th February 2003	Ref: MM/AS		

Purpose of Report

This report reviews the budget performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the period April 2001 to March 2003. It also includes statistics on bursary applications received and processed and the attendance of students in receipt of bursary support.

Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended to:

- (a) note the performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the financial year April 2002 to April 2003.
- (b) request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.

Michael O'Neill

Members wishing further information about this report should contact

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**Higher School Bursaries 2002-2003
Performance Review**

Report by the Director of Education

1. Bursary Awards in 2002-2003

- 1.1 988 applications have been received to date for academic session 2002-2003. This is a slight increase on the equivalent period in session 2001-2003. Of these, 13 applications were refused support and Table 1 shows a breakdown of this category.

Table 1 – Applications Refused

Not resident in NLC	Attending school outwith NLC	Not resident in NLC on qualifying date	Already funded for 2 years	Not eligible until session 2003-2004	Student in receipt of Income Support
3	3	3	1	2	1

- 1.2 In accordance with the bursary policy, the deadline for submission of applications from students eligible for full year bursary awards was Monday 21 October. Applications received after that date will be considered for a 2-term award from January 2003. 36 applications received fall into this category.
- 1.3 Of the remaining 939 applications, 789 letters of award have been processed. These have resulted in 124 no awards due to the level of parental income (“financial refusal”), 30 awards made provisionally to students whose parents are self-employed or whose parents’ income has reduced by more than 15% compared to that of the last financial year and 635 standard awards. A further 150 applications are yet to be processed as they are either two-term applications which are currently being assessed or not all of the necessary information to allow them to be processed has been submitted.

Table 2 – Awards Processed

Financial Refusals	Provisional Awards	Standard Awards
124	30	635

- 1.4 Of the 665 successful awards, 505 students were awarded the maximum full-year bursary award of £864 and 60 were awarded the maximum 2-term award of £480. The remaining 100 students were awarded reduced awards, a parental contribution having been applied due to the level of gross household income in the last financial year being greater than £10453.
- 1.5 If attendance of 95% or above is assumed for these students in the 3 attendance-monitoring periods, the total amount which would be paid to them during the session from August 2002 to March 2003 would be £367,695. As £145,792 was paid from the 2002/2003 budget in the previous academic session, the expenditure for the full financial year is likely to be £513,487.

2 Payments 2002/2003

- 2.1 A total of £247,142 has been paid in respect of these awards between August 2002 and the current time. In addition, £145,792 was paid in the period April to June 2002.
- 2.2 Table 3 is a detailed analysis of expenditure for higher school bursaries for the full financial year to date.

Higher School Bursaries Budget	Projected expenditure, April 2002 to March 2003	Anticipated savings
£588,000	£513,487	£74,513

3 Attendance

- 3.1 Attendance will be monitored in 3 periods, 19 August to 1 November 2002, 4 November 2002 to 24 January 2003 and 27 January to 4 April 2003. The awards to students with an attendance of less than 95% will be reduced, unless (1) a self-certification form is submitted and substantiated by the school, (2) a medical certificate is submitted or (3) the Education (Joint Appeals and Bursaries) sub-committee uphold an appeal.
- 3.2 Table 4 shows a comparison in attendance figures for the period 19 August to 1 November 2002 and the corresponding period in sessions 2000/2001 and 2001/2002.

Table 4 – Attendance comparison

Academic session	No of applicants	No under minimum requirement	%age under minimum requirement
Aug-Oct, 2000/2001	772	244	32%
Aug-Nov, 2001/2002	640	164	26%
Aug-Nov, 2002/2003	608	161	26%

The percentage of students whose attendance did not meet the 95% requirement has remained at the same level as in the previous session.

- 3.3 Although the 2nd monitoring period has ended, there are insufficient details available at this time in order to report the comparison between this and the equivalent periods in the last 2 sessions. This information will be reported to a future meeting of the sub-committee.

4 Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended:

- (1) to note the performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the financial year 2002/2003.
- (2) to request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.

MM/AS
10 February 2003