

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 2

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE	Subject: HIGHER SCHOOL BURSARIES 2003-2004 : PERFORMANCE REVIEW
From: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	
Date:	Ref: MM/AS

Purpose of Report

This report reviews the performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the period April 2003 to February 2004. It also includes details of the bursary applications received and pupil attendance.

Recommendations

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

- (a) note the performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the period April 2003 to February 2004.
- (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

Michael O'Neill, Director of Education, on 01236 812337, or
Murdo Maciver, Head of Service, on 01236 812269

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL : DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Report by the Director of Education

1. Background.

1.1 912 applications have been received to date for academic session 2003-2004. This is a decrease of 86 on the equivalent period in session 2002-2003. Of these, 11 applications were refused because the students were not eligible for support for the following reasons;

- (1) not resident in North Lanarkshire
- (2) attending school outwith North Lanarkshire as the result of placing requests made after 1 April 1996
- (3) unable to provide proof of legal guardian
- (4) already funded for 2 years or
- (5) student in receipt of DSS benefit.

Table 1 shows a breakdown of this category.

Table 1 – Applications Refused

Not resident in NLC	Attending school outwith NLC	No proof of legal guardian	Already funded for 2 years	In receipt of DSS benefit
3	3	2	2	1

- 1.2 In accordance with bursary policy, the deadline for submission of applications from students eligible for full year bursary awards was Monday 20 October. Applications received after that date were considered for a 2-term award from January 2004. 35 applications received fall into this category.
- 1.3 47 applications have been cancelled, either because the students have left school or they have indicated that they no longer wish to be considered for support.
- 1.4 Of the remaining 854 applications, 724 letters of award have been processed. These have resulted in 128 no awards due to the level of parental income and 33 provisional awards 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. Awards have been made to 563 students. A further 130 applications are yet to be processed because the students either have not yet provided all of the necessary documentation or the applications have been submitted relatively recently.

Table 2 – Awards Processed

Financial Refusals	Provisional Awards	Standard Awards
128	33	563

- 1.4 Of the 596 standard and provisional awards, 436 students were awarded the maximum full year bursary of £864 and 68 were awarded the maximum 2-term award of £480. The remaining 92 students were awarded reduced awards to take account of the parental contribution required because the household income in 2002-2003 was over the £10,453 threshold.

2. Payments 2003-2004

- 2.1 Table 3 is a detailed analysis of expenditure for higher school bursaries for the full financial year.

Table 3 – Payments, April to November 2003

Higher School Bursaries Budget	Expenditure, April 2003 to January 2004	Estimated Expenditure, 2003/2004
£513,000	£352,488	£408,216

The estimated expenditure figure takes account of the reduction in the number of applications received in Session 2003-2004 and deductions made from the awards of those students who have not attained the minimum attendance requirements in the first and / or second monitoring periods.

3. Attendance

- 3.1 Attendance is monitored in 3 periods, 18 August to 31 October 2003, 3 November 2003 to 23 January 2004 and 26 January to 2 April 2004. 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 of attendance in the periods 18 August to 31 October 2003 and 3 November 2003 to 23 January 2004 with the corresponding periods in sessions 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

Table 4 – Attendance comparison

Academic session	Monitoring period	No of applicants	Attendance under 95%	
			No	%
2001/2002	Aug to Nov 01	673	168	25%
	Nov 01 to Jan 02	633	214	34%
2002/2003	Aug to Nov 02	629	174	28%
	Nov 02 to Jan 03	586	180	31%
2003/2004	Aug to Oct 03	556	143	26%
	Nov 03 to Jan 04	506	179	35%

4. Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended:

- (1) to note the performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the financial year 2003/2004.
- (2) to request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.