

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: 20/04/2004	Ref: MM/AS

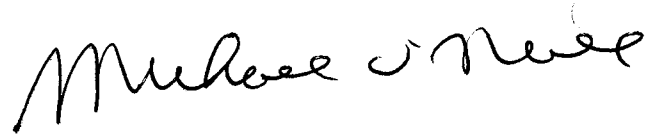
Purpose of Report

This report reviews the performance of the higher school bursaries budget for the period April 2003 to April 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 April 2004.
- (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

Report by the Director of Education

1. Background.

1.1 923 applications were received to date for academic session 2003 –2004. This is a decrease of 102 on the equivalent period in session 2002-2003. Of these, 12 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 a placing request made after 1 April 1996
- (3) unable to provide proof of legal guardian
- (4) already funded for 2 years
- (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
4	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 2003. Applications received after that date were considered for a 2-term award from January 2004. The deadline for submission of applications from students eligible for 2-term bursary awards was Friday 5 March 2004. Applications received after that date were refused and the students advised to reapply in session 2004-2005. 52 applications received fall into these categories.

Table 2 shows a breakdown of this category.

Applications from full-year eligible students received after 20 October 2004	Applications from full-year eligible students received after 5 March 2004	Applications from 2-term eligible students received after 5 March 2004
45	2	4

1.3 78 applications have been cancelled, either because the students left school early or they indicated that they no longer wished to be considered for support.

1.4 Of the 827 eligible applications, 784 letters of award have been processed. These have resulted in 134 no awards due to the level of parental income and 14 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 636

students. A further 43 applications have not been decided because the students have not yet provided all of the necessary documentation.

Table 3 shows a breakdown of this category.

Table 3 – Awards Processed

Financial Refusals	Provisional Awards	Standard Awards
134	14	636

1.5 Of the 678 standard and provisional awards, 441 students were awarded the maximum full year bursary of £864 and 104 were awarded the maximum 2-term award of £480. The remaining 133 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 4 is a detailed analysis of expenditure for higher school bursaries for the full financial year.

Table 4 – Payments, April 2003 – April 2004

Higher School Bursaries Budget	Expenditure, April 2003 to April 2003	Underspend against Budget
£513,000	£422,080	£90,920

The underspend reflects 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 3 attendance-monitoring periods.

3. Attendance

3.1 Attendance was monitored in 3 periods, 18 August to 31 October 2003, 3 November 2003 to 23 January 2004 and 26 January to 26 March 2004. Awards were reduced in the case of students with an attendance of less than 95% unless (1) a self-certification form was submitted and substantiated by the school, (2) a medical certificate was submitted or (3) the Education (Joint Appeals and Bursaries) sub-committee has upheld an appeal.

3.2 Table 5 shows a comparison of attendance in the 3 reporting periods this session and the equivalent periods in Sessions 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

Table 5 – 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%
	Jan to Mar 02	762	265	35%
2002/2003	Aug to Nov 02	629	174	28%
	Nov 02 to Jan 03	586	180	31%
	Jan to Apr 03	720	234	33%
2003/2004	Aug to Oct 03	555	146	26%
	Nov 03 to Jan 04	507	153	30%
	Jan to Mar 04	617	198	32%

4. Recommendation

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended:

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

MM/AS
26 April 2004