

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

AGENDA ITEM No. 3

To: EDUCATION (RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE	Subject : HIGHER SCHOOL BURSARIES 2004-2005: 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 to January 2005. 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 2004 to January 2005
- (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

### Report by the Director of Education

#### 1. Background.

- 1.1 392 applications have been received to date for academic session 2004-2005. This is a decrease of 451 on the equivalent period in session 2003-2004. It is important to note that, due to the introduction of Education Maintenance Allowance, only those students who became 16 before 1 March 2004 are eligible to apply for a Higher School bursary.
- 1.2 Of the applications received, 10 have been refused because the students were not eligible for support for the following reasons:
- (1) not resident in North Lanarkshire
  - (2) already funded for 2 years
  - (3) too young for bursary or EMA support

Table 1 shows a breakdown of this category.

**Table 1 – Applications Refused**

Not resident in NLC	Already funded for 2 years	Too young for EMA / Bursary
4	3	3

- 1.3 A further 9 students were not eligible for support until January 2005, 8 of these because the applications were received more than 2 months after the start date of the course and 1 who was not resident in North Lanarkshire on the “qualifying date” of 30 June in order to be eligible for a full-year award.
- 1.4 16 applications have been cancelled, either because the students have left school or they have indicated that they no longer wish to be considered.
- 1.5 Of the remaining 357 applications, 348 letters of award have been processed. These have resulted in no awards to 70 students due to the level of parental income (“financial refusal”), 7 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. Awards have been made to 271 students. The remaining 9 applications are yet to be processed as the students have not yet provided all of the necessary documentation.

**Table 2 – Awards Processed**

Financial Refusals	Provisional Awards	Standard Awards
70	7	271

- 1.6 Of the 278 standard and provisional awards, 228 students were awarded the maximum full-year bursary of £864 and 4 students were awarded the maximum 2-term bursary of £480. The remaining 46 students were awarded reduced amounts, because the gross household income in the last financial year was over £10,453.

## 2. Payments 2004/2005

- 2.1 Table 3 is a detailed analysis of expenditure for Higher School bursaries for the full financial year to date.

**Table 3 – Payments, April 2004 to January 2005**

<b>Higher School Bursaries Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure, April 2004 to January 2005</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure, 2004/2005</b>
£213,000	£200,166	£224,118

The estimated expenditure figure is based on the total of all awards made to date and the assumption that all those students whose applications are yet to be processed will all receive maximum awards. It also assumes all students attaining more than 95% in each of the 3 monitoring periods.

## 3. Attendance

- 3.1 Attendance will be monitored in 3 periods, 18 August to 29 October 2004, 1 November 2004 to 21 January 2005 and 24 January to 24 March 2005. 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, Maintenance Allowance and Bursaries) sub-committee uphold an appeal.
- 3.2 Table 4 shows a comparison in attendance figures for the period 18 August to 29 October 2004 and the corresponding periods in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004.

**Table 4 – Attendance Comparison**

<b>Academic Session</b>	<b>No. of applicants</b>	<b>No. under minimum requirement</b>	<b>%age under minimum requirement</b>
Aug – Nov, 2002/2003	629	174	28%
Aug – Nov, 2003/2004	514	143	28%
Aug – Nov, 2004/2005	278	52	19%

- 3.3 No figures are available as yet for the attendance-monitoring period 1 November 2004 to 21 January 2005. These 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 2004/2005.
- (2) to request the submission of further performance reports to future meetings of the sub-committee.

MM/AS  
11 February 2005