

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT AGENDA ITEM No. 5

To: Education (Resources) Sub- Committee	Subject: Increase to Annual Income Determining Free School Meal Entitlement
From: Director of Education	
Date: 4th April 2006	
Ref: MM/KF/MB/FC	

Summary

The report details the change to the criteria which determines entitlement to free school meals.

Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended to note the change in the criteria for entitlement to free school meals.

Michael Neill

Members wishing further information about this report should contact:

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NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Increase to annual income determining free school meal entitlement

Report by the Director of Education

1. Background

1.1 The Education Scotland Act 1980 and the Education School Meals Act (Scotland) 2003 confers a power on education authorities to provide milk, meals and other refreshments to school pupils. The Act also places a duty on authorities to make provision in the middle of the day, free of charge, to pupils whose parent/guardians qualify on the basis of one or more of the following criteria.

- (i) in receipt of income support
- (ii) in receipt of job-seekers allowance (income based)
- (iii) in receipt of child tax credit(CTC), with an income of less than £13,910
- (iv) in receipt of support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- (v) student parents with school children
- (vi) parents or carers who have savings above £8,000 but very low income

2. Change to eligibility criterion

The Scottish Executive has increased the income threshold for financial year 2006/07 from £13,910 to £14,155. This affects entitlement under criterion – on the above list.

3. Recommendations

The education (resources) sub-committee is recommended to note the increase in income threshold from £13,910 to £14,155 for year 2006/2007.