

## NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

<b>To:</b> SPECIAL HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	<b>Subject:</b> VERIFICATION FRAMEWORK – HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT
<b>From:</b> DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & PROPERTY SERVICES	
<b>Date:</b> 21 January 2003	<b>Ref:</b> TMcK/HMcG/SD

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain Committee approval to extend the contracts of two Verification Officers until 31 March 2004, and bring their termination date into line with the contractual arrangements for all other Verification Officers.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting of 7 March 2002, the Housing and Technical Services Committee approved the appointment of two additional Verification Officers to assist with the schedule of visits to all North Lanarkshire Council claimants within the first four years of the project. The two posts were funded through an additional one off grant of £38,134 for the financial year April 2002 to March 2003.
- 2.2 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is increasing the grant to North Lanarkshire Council for the financial year 2003/2004, and the amount of this additional grant will adequately cover the extension of these two posts until 31 March 2004.

**3. Proposals**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the contracts of the two temporary posts of Verification Officer, approved by the Housing and Technical Services Committee at their meeting of 7 March 2002, be extended to 31 March 2004. This will bring the termination dates into line with the remaining verification posts within the structure, (funding of the Verification Framework by the DWP beyond 31 March 2004 has still to be confirmed).

**4. Financial Considerations**

- 4.1 There is no cost to the Council relating to this proposal as increased funding from DWP will adequately cover all related staff costs.

**5. Recommendations**

5.1 Committee is asked to:

- (a) Approve the extension of the posts outlined in Section 3 until 31 March 2004; and
- (b) Refer this report to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub Committee for consideration.

**6. Background Information**

7.1 Background information is available within the Housing and Property Services Department.



T McKenzie  
**Director of Housing and Property Services**