



To: PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	Subject:
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT	TRAINING ASSISTANCE GRANT 2001/2002
Date: 1 May 2002	Ref: DD/Rep.843

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the operation of the Training Assistance Grant Scheme (T.A.G.) for the financial year 2001/2002.

2 Sustainability

- 2.1 This programme meets the sustainable development policy adopted by the Council through Local Agenda 21 by addressing elements of Section 3 "Economy and Work" and Section 8 "Social Needs". In particular the scheme addresses the following areas:

- reducing poverty and low pay
- increasing employment opportunities for local people
- helping local and community based business to set up and grow

3. Introduction

- 3.1 The TAG Fund is designed to be a flexible and reactive training grant fund providing assistance for unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire to undertake employment related training where such training is unavailable or inaccessible elsewhere. The TAG programme is directed toward unemployed individuals who have been out of work for at least three months. The maximum grant award is £650. Payment is made directly to the training provider.

4. 2001/2002 Programme

- 4.1 In total the budgetary provision for grant assistance to unemployed residents of North Lanarkshire, for financial year 2001/2002 was £40,000. The total budget expenditure was £49,954 with the overspend being met from an underspend in the accruals during the period. This programme is funded solely by North Lanarkshire Council.
- 4.2 Details of all applications received by the Policy & Economic Development Service during the period April 2001 to March 2002 is contained in Table 1 below.

TABLE 1 – APRIL 2001 TO MARCH 2002

AREA	TOTAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	TOTAL APPLICATIONS APPROVED	TOTAL APPLICATIONS REJECTED	TOTAL APPLICATIONS PENDING
North	21	18	3	0
Central	33	27	4	2
South	62	53	7	2
Total	116	98	14	4

- 4.3 As can be seen from Table 1 the total number of applications received in the financial year amounts to 116. A total of 98 applications were approved. 14 applications were either rejected or withdrawn and 4 applications are awaiting further confirmation of eligibility. Of the 98 applications approved the average grant payment was £510
- 4.4 Members will recall that the Training Assistance Grant can be used to assist individuals threatened by redundancy as the fund forms part of a response measure within the Council’s Redundancy Support Programme. TAG has assisted individuals from various organisations this year including Volex Powercords, Coilcraft and Lamberton Engineering.
- 4.5 All applicants, at time of application, had definite job offers in writing from employers willing to employ them on completion of the relevant training. A monitoring exercise is due to commence and a future report will be passed to Committee in the near future.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 It is the recommendation of this report that the Committee:
- (i) Note the contents of this report;
 - (ii) Await a future monitoring report outlining the success of the scheme.



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Director of Planning & Environment

For further information contact David Doyle, Economic Development Assistant (Tel: 01236 616274)
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