

**SENIOR CITIZENS GRANTS : IMPLEMENTATION**

12. With reference to paragraph 19 of the minute of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 20 August 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 4 September 1996 by the Director of Administration in connection with the proposed implementation arrangements to be made relating to the establishment of a grants scheme for senior citizens within the Council area.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the proposals, detailed within the report, with regard to the implementation of Senior Citizens Grants within the areas of the former Motherwell, Monklands and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Districts be approved;
- (2) in terms of Standing Order No. 48, the Committee agreed to suspend Standing Order No. 29 and that the schemes previously operated in the former Motherwell and Monklands Districts be extended into the former Strathkelvin area and accordingly that grants be made direct to eligible senior citizens in that area, and
- (3) that consideration of the future of the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Central Council for the Welfare of Senior Citizens be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee.

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE	Subject: SENIOR CITIZENS GRANTS: IMPLEMENTATION
From: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION	
Date: 4 September 1996	Ref: JAF/AH

1. **Background**

1.1 The Policy & Resources Committee, at its meeting on 20 August, agreed that the Council institute a grants scheme for senior citizens to be operated, in each area of North Lanarkshire, on the basis of the scheme operated by the relevant former district council. This report gives details of the proposed implementation arrangements.

2. **Implementation: Monklands and Motherwell**

2.1 In respect of the areas covered by the former Motherwell and Monklands District Councils the practice was that the council, shortly before Christmas, give a grant direct to eligible senior citizens on production of evidence of identity. For that purpose public advertisements were placed in local newspapers towards the end of November and a number of local payment points were established.

2.2 After consultation with the Director of Finance, it is proposed to proceed this year on the same basis. A public advertisement will be placed in local newspapers advising of the availability of grants to women aged 60 and over and men aged 65 and over on production of evidence of eligibility to state pension during the month of December 1996 and on completion of a claim form.

2.3 In Monklands it was the practice to establish three payment points, staffed for four days during the month of December and it is proposed to continue that practice for 1996.

2.4 It was the practice of Motherwell District Council to establish six payment points throughout that district open for a number of weeks during December. It is proposed to reflect that practice using, substantially, the same payment points.

2.5 It is accordingly proposed that the payment points for distribution of grant within the former Monklands District be open and staffed on Monday 9, Tuesday 10, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 December 1996 and that the payment points in Motherwell District be open and staffed throughout the weeks beginning 2 and 9 December 1996.

### 3. **Implementation: Cumbernauld & Kilsyth**

- 3.1 It was the practice of the former Cumbernauld & Kilsyth District Council to give a grant to fourteen local area welfare committees at the rate of £10 per senior citizen on the register of each committee. Those grants were paid in April of each year based on registers submitted by the preceding February. Registers have been submitted in February of this year although no grant has been paid in April. Those registers will not totally reflect the current membership but, having regard to the difficulties local welfare committees would encounter were they required, now and at short notice, to update their registers, it is proposed that payment be made, this year, to each of the fourteen local area welfare committees at the approved rate in respect of each senior citizen on the relevant register submitted in February 1996.

### 4. **Implementation: Strathkelvin District**

- 4.1 Within Strathkelvin District the practice was to award a grant at a per capita rate in respect of each accredited member to a number of senior citizens' organisations. Organisations operational in North Lanarkshire and in receipt of such a grant from Strathkelvin District in financial year 1995/96 are as follows:-

Chryston & District Senior Citizens' Club  
 Moodiesburn Senior Citizens' Association  
 Mount Ellen Senior Citizens' Club  
 NUM Retired Branch - Moodiesburn District  
 Stepps & District Old Age Pensioners' Association  
 Stepps & District Friendship Club  
 St Michael's Senior Citizens' Thursday Club Moodiesburn

Parts of the former Strathkelvin area are not served by any of those organisations while, in other parts, more than one of those organisations is active.

- 4.2 It would be possible to implement the decision of the Council by asking each of those organisations to supply a current list of accredited members and by making payment of the approved grant to each organisation in respect of each eligible accredited member. Were that to be done, however, it is likely that senior citizens in the areas not covered by any of those organisations would not have access to the grant scheme. In addition there is the possibility of duplication of grant in areas in which more than one of those organisations operates.
- 4.3 As an alternative it may be that the Committee would wish to give consideration to recommending to the Council that, instead of the grants scheme for senior citizens operating within this area on the basis of the scheme operated by the former Strathkelvin District Council, the schemes previously operated in Motherwell and Monklands District be extended into the former Strathkelvin area and grants made direct to eligible senior citizens in that area. Such consideration and such a recommendation would require the suspension of standing orders.

5. **Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Central Council for the Welfare of Senior Citizens**

- 5.1 Within Cumbernauld & Kilsyth there was established, also, a Central Council for the welfare of senior citizens, the objectives of which included liaison with appropriate bodies for the welfare of senior citizens, taking the initiative in the provision, organisation and continuance of welfare services for senior citizens, receiving contributions and dispersing monies received to local committees, co-ordinating the work of local committees and other activities necessary or advisable for the welfare of senior citizens. Membership of the Central Council included two members appointed by each of the local welfare committees and the whole members of the General Purposes and Environmental Services Committee of the District Council. The President of the Central Council was the Provost of the District.
- 5.2 North Lanarkshire Council has made no appointments to the Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Central Council for the Welfare of Senior Citizens and it is recommended that consideration be now given as to the future of that body.

6. **Recommendations**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the above proposals for implementation of the Council's decision in respect of senior citizens' grant within the areas of the former Motherwell, Monklands and Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Districts;
- 6.2 It is recommended that the Committee consider the suspension of standing orders to permit consideration of options for the operation of the senior citizen's grants scheme within those parts of North Lanarkshire which formerly lay within Strathkelvin District; and
- 6.3 That consideration of the future of the Cumbernauld & Kilsyth Central Council for the Welfare of Senior Citizens be remitted to the Policy & Resources (Community Development) Sub-Committee.

  
 Director of Administration

*Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact John Fleming, Head of Central Services on Extension 2228.*