

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: SUPPORTING PEOPLE GRANT ALLOCATION	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 10 MARCH 2005	Ref: JD/GMcl		

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the Supporting People Grant awarded to North Lanarkshire Council for the period 2005 to 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1. Supporting People, an initiative to assist people with services that enable them to live in the community, was introduced in 2000. In the first three years of the scheme the cost of Housing Support Services were met through Transitional Housing Benefit.
- 2.2. The level of transitional benefit which was generated in the first three years informed the basis of the future Supporting People Grant.
- 2.3. In 2003/04 the Council received an initial allocation of £24.8 million. This grant helped fund the cost of Housing Support Services to 9,444 people which was delivered by 39 provider organisations.
- 2.4. When the 2003/04 grant was originally announced it was noted that the North Lanarkshire allocation had been reduced by approximately £900,000 due to a problem with Transitional Housing Benefit claims. The Council submitted evidence to the Department for Work and Pensions which demonstrated that any problem was not of the Councils making, and the full level of grant should be paid. Despite continuous representations to the Executive, DWP and the Treasury, this matter remains outstanding.
- 2.5. The Council has received a grant settlement for the next three years. The allocation fails to meet the full value of the current Housing Support contract costs. It also fails to meet the full cost of pipeline projects which were started after 2003. The allocation of grant does not take account of inflationary increases of the period of allocation.
- 2.6. In light of the potential shortfall in the grant over the three year period, the Council will have little option but to impose a reduction in its supporting people expenditure, to reflect the level of grant which has been received.

3. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 3.1. The grant awarded for the succeeding three years, as indicated, does not cover the contracted costs of the Supporting People Services. The level of grant awarded to the Council is:

2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
£24.8 million	£25.1 million	£25.9 million

- 3.2. Officers responsible for Supporting People Services are currently reviewing budgets and the Supporting People Strategic Plan to ensure that future expenditure fits with the grant allocation and will bring forward reports to appraise Committee of the financial and service implications.

4. **Recommendation**

4.1. Committee is requested to: -

- i. Note the report.
- ii. Request the Director of Social Work to bring forward future reports advising of relevant progress and issues relating to budget and service delivery.



Director of Social Work
4 February 2005

For further information on this report please contact George McNally, Manager Social Work Strategy on telephone 01698 332555