

ANGUS COUNCIL

FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

28 JANUARY 2003

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS MOBILE PHONES

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report seeks Committee approval to proposed arrangements for the continued disposal of surplus mobile phones and ancillary equipment.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee approve the terms of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

One of Personnel Services responsibilities is to provide advice to departments on mobile phones including the most appropriate deals for departments in respect of hardware, line rental and call charges in order to meet their service requirements. Mobile phones are received and distributed to departments and their discarded mobiles returned to Personnel Services.

As the demand for and usage of mobile phones increases – currently approximately 900 in use within the Council – the number of discarded mobile phones and ancillary equipment due to breakage or replacement has similarly increased.

While some discarded mobiles in good condition have been retained as emergency stock to replace broken mobiles etc the increasing turnover of mobiles has been such that consideration had had to be given to appropriate arrangements for disposing of used surplus mobile phones.

As cellular phones and their accessories contain substances that are not only dangerous but environmentally unfriendly it is important that they are disposed of appropriately.

In recognition of this to date discarded mobiles have been sent to Cellular Reclamation Limited in Shrewton, Wiltshire, a company accredited by the Environment Agency for the safe reclamation, recycling and disposal of mobile phones.

The company collects all old equipment free of charge, recycles non saleable equipment within the terms of UK and EU legislation, issues a duty of care transfer certificate confirming the transfer of responsibility for safe disposal to the company and sells reusable equipment following refurbishment to the third world.

3. PROPOSAL

Given the increase in mobile phone usage it is considered appropriate to formalise arrangements for the disposal of surplus mobile phones in accordance with Financial Regulations.

The competitive mobile phone market in which mobiles are not only continually improving but becoming cheaper makes it inappropriate to advertise discarded mobiles for sale. In recognition of this and bearing in mind the environmental issues surrounding the disposal of discarded mobiles it is proposed that the most appropriate means of disposal would be to

continue to use Cellular Reclamation Limited and the Committee is asked, in terms of Financial Regulation 16.15 to so authorise.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Cellular Reclamation Limited meets all costs associated with the collection of old equipment. The company will put a valuation on equipment received, which has been found to equate to approximately £1 per phone, and reimburse the Council accordingly. Such monies have been regarded as miscellaneous income to the budget of Personnel Services to help offset associated administrative costs.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION

The Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

HR/PerServMan

NOTE No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.