

**MODERNISING GOVERNMENT FUND BID (Angusnet)****JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY****ABSTRACT**

This report details the outcome of an Angus bid for funding from the Scottish Executive Modernising Government Fund to allow the development of a project to introduce coordinated multi-agency service provision across Angus.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committees are recommended respectively to:

- a) note the outcome of the bid for funding made by the Council on behalf of itself and its partners in the project namely the approval by the Scottish Executive of a grant of £554300
- b) approve the previously agreed allocation from the Information Technology Repairs and Renewal Fund for the provision of Broadband Communications Networking as part of the Council's contribution to the project, and
- c) approve a contribution of £45000 from the Property Repairs and Renewals Fund with regard to the development of a one-stop call centre and office
- d) authorise the Chief Executive and the Director of Information Technology to proceed with the development of the project and
- e) instruct the Chief Executive to report progress on the project to Committee as appropriate.

**2. BACKGROUND**

During last summer the Scottish Executive Minister of Finance announced the creation of the Modernising Government Fund and invited bids for projects from across the public sector in Scotland. While making joint working between different parts of government a priority the criteria for successful bids included the need to

- a) identify and facilitate innovative ways of delivering public services, especially with potential for reaching a wider range of customer and,
- b) reduce the cost of delivering public services while improving the quality and effectiveness of services delivered to the public.

The Council in consultation with Tayside Police, Tayside Health Board, Angus College, the University of Abertay Dundee and Angus Association of Voluntary Organisations prepared a bid for funding for a project which it considered to meet the necessary criteria and would be of significant benefit to Angus and its citizens.

After two stages of bidding and scrutiny by the Scottish Executive it was announced that the Angus bid had been successful in obtaining the requested funding from the Executive to the value of £554300.

**3. THE PROPOSED PROJECT – angus.net**

The proposed project provides a groundbreaking opportunity to pilot "joined up" multi agency services within Angus. The principle objectives of the project are to:

- a) pilot multi-agency one stop shops where information and services provided by all the partners will be available
- b) develop a multi-agency call centre facility providing similar services to a) above
- c) enhance and expand learning opportunities to all areas of the population of Angus and
- d) implement a shared cost effective high speed communications network across Angus.

In addition to these objectives successful implementation of the project will provide not only a sustainable infrastructure within Angus but also sufficient spare telecommunications capacity

to enable each organisation to implement with confidence additional modernising government initiatives both within their own organisations and working in partnership as they have done during this project.

A complete copy of the proposed project as described in the submitted bid has been placed in the Members lounge for Members information and interest

**4. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

An inter agency project management board has been established to ensure that the appropriate implementation arrangements are in place.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The total costs of the project including property alterations, Information Communications Technology equipment and other development aspects have been estimated to be £806535. The contribution from the Scottish Executive amounts to £554300 and the remaining £252235 will be met by contributions from the project partners. Partner contributions will be of both a financial and an in kind nature. A major element of the Council's contribution (£150,000) will be for the provision of new communications equipment for the Council's sole use to enable it to take advantage of increased communications capacity which in the Council's case will result in an increase of over 100 times the capacity of the existing Council network.

This amount can be funded by utilising the previously allocated amount of £200,000 from the Information technology Repairs and Renewals Fund (Report 134/00 refers) which was originally intended to upgrade the communications network within the Council in a less efficient and effective way.

Despite the considerable increase in capacity and functionality in the new facilities it is anticipated that the recurring revenue costs for the core network will be less than the costs associated with the existing network although at this stage the exact savings cannot be accurately specified.

The property repairs and Renewals Fund will accommodate the Council's share with regard to the joint one-stop shop and call centre

**6. CONSULTATION**

The Directors of Finance and Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**7. HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are no human rights implications arising directly from this report.

**AB Watson**  
Chief Executive

**A Greenhill**  
Director of Information Technology

**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.