

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 APRIL 2004

RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 6 MAY 2004

INFORMATION PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE (iPac)

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report seeks to inform Committee of the recent introduction of access via the Internet to Angus Council's library information catalogue through the launch of iPac.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agrees to note the launch of this service to the library users in Angus.

2. BACKGROUND

In 2001 Angus Council received from the New Opportunities Fund a grant of £196,620 to help create a network of Peoples Network pcs within all Angus Libraries. This work is now complete and the workstations are now available for public use at all local libraries.

The prime purpose of the creation of the Peoples Network is to empower the individual learner but an important local element in that empowerment is the provision of customer access from home or office to the circulation system and library services through a Web based version of the library catalogue.

Accordingly, as a part of the Council's ongoing commitment to develop e-services to the citizens of Angus a project was developed by Angus Council's Cultural Services and Department of IT staff in partnership with Dynix, who provide the present library automated system, to provide Internet access to the library catalogue.

The introduction of iPac gives library members the opportunity to conduct a range of activities previously not possible with our current catalogue including

- Remotely interrogating the library catalogue from either home or work
- Placing requests online on current library stock.
- Checking personal loan records and renewing loans
- Advising the library of change of personal details
- Ability to check listings of new additions to library collections including Videos and DVDs
- Ability to view and check prepared searches such as Scottish writers and Promotional events such as the Angus Book Award, School Projects and the Angus Sports Coaching Resource Centre Collection
- Ability to check our Events and Community Information databases

In addition iPac also offer customers the kind of information they are accustomed to receiving from Amazon or other Web search engines such as

- PIN access to a range of online Reference Sources such as KnowUK, Xrefer Plus, Kompass and Newsbank
- Links to sites for children and adults such as BBC Radio4 Bookclub and BBC CBeebie's Storycycle as well as a range of Scottish Publishers
- Links to netlibrary e-book contents including sample chapters
- Links to e-learning resources through the Web from the library catalogue

The introduction of iPac gives library users 24 hour access 7 days per week to the library catalogue and will be of particular benefit to users in remote areas or those who are unable to visit the library within normal opening hours. With the development of digitised resources, local history indexes and archival records iPac will provide an opportunity for potential researchers out-with Angus to become aware of the rich resources available within Angus.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The introduction and development was part of joint initiative between Angus Council Cultural Services and Department of IT and ongoing revenue costs for iPac will be met from within Cultural Services annual revenue budget.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Implications arising from this report

5. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration, the Director of Finance and the Director of IT have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

JOHN R ZIMNY
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 this report.