

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 1 SEPTEMBER 2005

PROCUREMENT OF BLANK SMARTCARDS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ABSTRACT

This report seeks homologation of the decision by the Director of Information Technology in consultation with the Convener of Resources and Central Services, the Chief Executive and acting Director of Finance to procure 40,000 blank smartcards under a supply contract negotiated by the Scottish Executive Improvement Service.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Resources and Central Services Committee is recommended to homologate in accordance with Financial Regulation 16.3.4 the decision of the Director of Information Technology taken in consultation with the Convener of Resources and Central Services, the Chief Executive and acting Director of Finance to procure 40,000 blank smartcards at an estimated cost of £22,400 under the contract negotiated by the Scottish Executive.

2. BACKGROUND

Angus Council are a participating member of the Customer First SCASC programme to develop a Voluntary Citizens Entitlement Card following application to the Modernising Government Fund 3 for funding. The successful application for funding was advised to committee in report 361/05.

The Scottish Executive Improvement Service together with the Scottish Executive Transport Division are progressing a national scheme for Concessionary Travel with 1.2 million smartcards to be issued to citizens to provide access to concessions. In Angus, approximately 23,000 concession smartcards will be issued in partnership with the council.

To enable procurement of the necessary smartcards, the Improvement Service has undertaken a full EU tendering process, which provides for the 1.2 million concession cards, plus the supply of additional blank smartcards for councils own use. Due to the volumes being procured, the card costs under the supply contract are 56p per card, in comparison to an estimated £1.20 per card were the council to procure independently. Notification of any additional blank smartcards required by Angus under this supply contract had to be made to the Improvement Service by 29 July 2005.

Angus Council's submission for MGF3 funds identified a number of areas where smartcards would be used to provide improved access to services in the form of a multi application smartcard in addition to the concessionary travel use, these additional services include Local Libraries, Leisure Facilities, Dialogue Youth / Young Scot and Cashless Catering in schools.

The services currently provide for the use of cards for customers, though on the basis of a card per service. The use of the multi application smartcard will enable a single card to replace the multiple cards currently in use.

The opportunity exists therefore, to procure 40,000 blank smartcards to enable the council to undertake future issue of the multi application smartcard to citizens not entitled to a concessionary travel card, at the significantly reduced cost negotiated by the Improvement Service. It is envisaged that this will commence after the introduction of the new concessionary travel scheme in April 2006.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The cost of procuring the 40,000 blank smartcards is estimated at £22,400. This cost can be contained within the current balances of the Modernising Government Fund 3 allocation within the Information Technology Repairs and Renewal Fund. There are no annual recurring costs associated with this procurement.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights issues arising from this report.

5. CONSULTATION

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

A Greenhill
Director of Information Technology

01.09.2005

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.