

## ANGUS COUNCIL

## RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 17 MARCH 2005

## SECURE REMOTE ACCESS

## REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**ABSTRACT**

This report seeks approval to procure a system which will provide appropriate users with secure remote access to particular council IT resources.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Resources and Central Services Committee is recommended to;

- a) approve the purchase of Juniper Networks NetScreen-SA 3020 and RSA SecureID at a cost of £39,000 from ACS (UK) Limited
- b) agree that the procurement should be exempt from competitive tendering in terms of criteria 16.3.2 (b) of the Council's Financial Regulations because of the specialised nature of the system

**2. BACKGROUND**

The council's IT network environment consist of some 5,000 desktop PC's and 150 servers supporting a variety of IT services including email, file and print, intranet, Internet access, and a range of business applications. Security is clearly a vital issue and the council deploys a number of security elements in order to protect its IT infrastructure.

An important security element is the user account and password which is used to determine a user's access permission to any network resource. Currently users can only access the council's internal IT resources from computers located in council premises and users are therefore subject to the normal physical security procedures in operation at all council sites in effect a second factor authentication. This is the generally accepted method of securing user access for staff located within an organisation's premises.

However there is now a growing demand for certain council staff to access IT resources from locations other than council premises, e.g. home, which introduces further potential security risks. The recognised method of managing these potential risks is to restrict remote access to a secure gateway and implement an electronic second factor authentication.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

The Department of Information Technology has investigated the products available for implementing a secure gateway and second factor electronic authentication. Following initial enquiries demonstrations of four different product types were sought. Following evaluation of each product's functionality against the council's requirements two products were selected for further investigation. Department staff visited two reference sites and had further extensive discussions with suppliers of the two short-listed products before concluding that Juniper Networks NetScreen-SA 3020 secure gateway and RSA Security's RSA SecureID two-factor authentication solution was the most appropriate solution.

The department sought quotes for these two products from three suppliers. ACS (UK) Limited offered the lowest price and best on-going support. The respective quotes received were:-

ACS (UK) Ltd	£38,926
Peepod (UK) Ltd	£49,604
Enforce Technology	£45,770

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost of implementing the proposal is £39,000 which will be funded from the 2004/2005 revenue budget of the Department of Information Technology. The recurring annual support cost associated with the proposal is £6,029 and will be contained within the existing departmental revenue budget.

#### **5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS**

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

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

**A Greenhill**  
**Director of Information Technology**

17.03.2005

**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 the above Report.