ANGUS COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Date 7 March 2000

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT FOR SCHOOLS   2000/01

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTORS OF EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ABSTRACT

This report outlines the present position in respect of Information and Communication Technology hardware in Angus Schools and recommends further investment in the financial year 2000/01.

1   RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that each Committee, for its own interests, approves the contents of this report and authorises the issue of tender documentation for the purchase of computers for secondary schools.

2   BACKGROUND

The Education and IT Departments are committed to improving ICT Equipment within both primary and secondary schools, in line with the IT Strategy and proposals outlined in the Excellence Fund Submission.

Funding for investment in ICT equipment has been augmented through the Excellence Fund and the Council's submission set out how the available funding will be utilised over a 3 year period, commencing in 1999/2000. Reference is made to Report 569/99 which outlined investment in ICT for financial year 1999/2000.

Reference is also made to Report No 78/00 which approved the purchase of RM PCs for primary schools. Since the report was approved the Scottish Executive have provided additional resources for computers in primary schools which, by 2002 will improve the target pupil computer ratio to 7.5:1, outlined as follows:

1999/2000	£43,330
2000/2001	£173,322
2001/2002	£216,652

The funding available in 1999/2000 has been utilised to increase the number of computers bought for primary schools to 180 which will result in a pupil computer ratio of 16:1 by the end of this financial year.

Good progress has been made in developing networks and each secondary school now has a whole school network including access to the internet.

Within primary schools, plans are in place to provide 18 schools with networked internet provision, approximately half of these being via the corporate intranet.

3. PROPOSALS

Utilising available funding sources it is proposed in 2000/2001 to:

£000

a. Purchase Additional Computer Hardware For Secondary Schools   300

The current ratio of pupils to modern computer is an average of 12:1. By March 2002 it is expected the ratio will be 5:1. It should be noted schools will have flexibility as to how the equipment will be deployed within schools and to a certain extent, the type of equipment to be purchased. It is proposed to purchase a minimum of 310 computers which will improve the ratio of pupils:computers to an average of 8:1. It is intended to purchase the additional hardware through corporate tendering.

b. Purchase Additional Computer Hardware for Primary Schools   223

As outlined above additional resources have been made available to improve the pupil computer ratio in primary schools. This will augment existing proposals to purchase additional computers for primary schools.

c. Expand Whole School Networks In Secondary Schools   50

As outlined above, significant progress has been made in developing whole school networks. As the number of users increases it is important that the infrastructure in each school is also upgraded to ensure all schools have modern extensive networks capable of allowing staff and pupils access to educational software as well as email/Intranet/Internet etc by the end of the financial year 2000/01.

d. ICT Networking Within Primary Schools   78

During 1998/99 and 1999/2000, networked Internet facilities were introduced in 18 primary schools. It is proposed to augment these networks and introduce network facilities to further schools.

e. Corporate Bandwidth Initiative   80

Contribution towards the cost of improving bandwidth for the Council Intranet which will significantly improve the performance for schools accessing the Council Intranet and World Wide Web.

TOTAL   731

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is the following 2000/01 budget provision for ICT equipment:-

	£000
Excellence Fund - CFCR	338
- Supplementary Allocation (Primary Schools)	173
IT Repair & Renewal Fund	220
	731

There is financial provision to implement the proposals outlined in Section 3.

5. CONSULTATION

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

6. CONCLUSIONS

The proposals outlined in this report will ensure good progress made to date is built on and provide schools with excellent ICT infrastructure for educational purposes.

JIM ANDERSON   ANDY GREENHILL
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION   DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION
                                                                        TECHNOLOGY

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.

CTC/SMW