

ANGUS COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE - 23RD MAY 2000

FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE - 13TH JUNE 2000

INTERNET USAGE - TRADING STANDARDS OFFICERS

JOINT REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval to exempt under controlled conditions nominated Trading Standards Officers from some aspects of the Council's Internet and e-mail usage policy to facilitate necessary investigative procedures.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committees are recommended to approve

- a) that nominated Trading Standards officers be exempt from the filtered Internet access provisions of the Council's Internet and e-mail policy in the execution of investigative processes
- b) that such unfiltered access be subject to monitoring procedures as agreed by the Directors of Information Technology and Environmental and Consumer Protection.

2. BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 2nd May 2000 the Finance and Information Technology Committee approved the adoption of an Internet and e-mail usage Policy. In particular the policy permitted Internet access to officers through the use of filtering software designed to prevent access to inappropriate material.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

In the course of investigating certain matters within their proper remit Trading Standards Officers within the Department of Environmental and Consumer Protection increasingly require to access material on the Internet which is prevented by the Council's normal filtering facilities.

4. PROPOSAL

In order to permit these officers to adequately investigate such cases using Council facilities it is proposed to exempt them from the normal filtered access provisions. To compensate for the lack of access management by filtering it is proposed that detailed reports of all such unfiltered access be prepared on an ongoing basis for the Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection to ensure proper use of this additional facility.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. CONSULTATION

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

A Greenhill

Director of Information Technology

S Heggie

Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection

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.

