

7 CITIZEN ACCOUNT - SMART CARD (AN150-2002)

It is reported for information that at the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 14th January, 2002, approval was given to Report No 822-2001 "Citizen Account - Smart Card". The recommendations included *inter alia* "make the first applications a school, the taxicard and the bus travel concessions". The Dundee Discovery Smart Card is scheduled to be launched at St John's RC High School on Monday, 16th September, 2002. As one of the principal applications of the card will be for "cashless cafeteria-style" school meals, it is proposed to roll out the Cafe Discovery dining centre development to St John's RC High School to coincide with the launch of the Smart Card to assist in ensuring a high profile event. Cafe Discovery has its own livery and aims to replicate the atmosphere of shopping mall dining. This initiative has already been taken forward in partnership with Tayside Contracts and Head Teachers at four secondary schools (Braeview Academy, Craigie High School, Lawside RC Academy and Menzieshill High School) and has proved most popular with pupils, staff and parents as well as having demonstrated benefits relating to the enhancement of school ethos and a marked improvement in pupil behaviour over the lunchtime period. It is proposed that Tayside Contracts procure the Cafe Discovery components (livery, signage, cashless system, furniture) through existing contracts. The cost to the Education Department of these works amounts to £45,000. It is anticipated that this sum can be contained within the Education Department's 2002/03 Revenue Budget for property repairs.

It was necessary to undertake these works over the summer holiday period when the dining area could be taken out of service. In view of the timescales involved, this was approved by the Director of Education in consultation with the Convener and spokespersons from the Major and Minor Opposition Groups.

The Committee is asked to note accordingly.