

12 VOLUNTARY POPULATION SURVEY (AN87-2002)

The Committee is asked to note that Dundee City Council recently completed its first Voluntary Population Survey. The survey, which was approved by Council Management Team in January 2001, is a voluntary and confidential survey which seeks to obtain information on population broken down by age and gender. It provides essential information on population and residences which is otherwise not available between the 10 years' Census cycle, the data is up-to-date and accurate and will contribute invaluable to efficient and effective planning and delivery of services. It was planned to carry out the initial survey in the same year as the 2001 Census to allow us to have comparable baseline information.

The survey and analysis of results is led by the Planning and Transportation Department. The 2001 survey is part of a 3 year pilot from 2001 until 2003/04 which will then be evaluated to consider its success and usefulness.

The survey was carried out as an integral part of the electoral registration process with essential support from the Support Services, IT and Finance Departments in the form of staff resources, data input and printing facilities. Tayside Health Board and Scottish Enterprise Tayside have joined the pilot and will contribute £3,000 in each of the three financial years to 2003/04.

The return rate of the first survey has been encouraging at 62%. This compares well with other authorities that carry out similar exercises and is substantially above the lowest expected return. The Planning and Transportation Department are currently preparing the raw data for future analysis and reporting. It is planned that a range of reports will be produced for a variety of small area boundaries extracting information such as residences with children, lone parents, elderly persons and large families. The first of these will be made available by the end of July 2002.