

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** FINANCE COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2001

**REPORT ON:** COUNCIL TAX PAYMENTS TO DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD BY PHONE

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

**REPORT NO:** 153-2001

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to obtain approval for entering into a further agreement with an external company to provide a phone service for the collection of Council Tax by way of credit/debit card.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

That the Director of Finance is authorised to enter into a contract with MGT Ltd to operate a payment by phone service from now until 31 March 2002.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost in any financial year will depend on the take-up level of service but is expected to be in the order of £25,000 per annum.
- 3.2 Provision for this expenditure has been included within the Finance Department's 2001/2002 Revenue Budget.

### **4.0 AGENDA 21**

- 4.1 The continuation of electronic/telephone payment systems will continue to reduce the amount of paper being used and fuel consumption as a result of a reduction in miles travelled to payment offices.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

Payment by telephone allows easier access to payment facility for persons who have difficulty travelling.

### **6.0 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 The Finance Committee at its meeting on 12 June 2000 considered Report No 381/2000 and approved a continuation of the scheme whereby MGT Ltd provide for a period of one year a payment by phone service for Council Tax.
- 6.2 During last year the number of payments received was approximately 10,000 and the total Council Tax collected amounted to some £1,150,000.
- 6.3 The cost of the scheme amounted to approximately £25,000.
- 6.4 The Council is presently unable to provide a similar service from within its own staffing resources.
- 6.5 The Council is presently investigating the possibility of extending the payment by credit/debit cards to other Council debts.

## 7.0

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

No back ground 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.

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David K Dorward  
Director of Finance

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Date