

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 16 AUGUST 2004

REPORT ON: CENTRAL LIBRARY – APPROVAL AS SQA (SCOTTISH QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY) ACCREDITED TEST CENTRE

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 533-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This reports seeks the Committee's approval to establish the Central Library as an Accredited SQA (Scottish Qualifications Accreditation) Test Centre, in order to offer the Award of PC Passport to Learning and ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee grants approval for the Central Library to apply to the SQA for accreditation as a Test Centre.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of this proposal is £450 to cover the SQA fees associated with accreditation. This cost can be met from the Department's revenue budget 2004 -2005.

4.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The introduction of this Centre will provide accredited learning opportunities for all members of the community, and will be aimed particularly at those who do not have access to ICT in their own homes.

5.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The proposal will contribute to the development of ICT skills across the City.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Over the last three years, library and information staff employed in the Communities Department have been undertaking ICT training financed by a grant from the New Opportunities Fund. As a result, most of the Department's library and information staff now hold the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL).
- 6.2 These enhanced ICT skills have supported the delivery of learning to the local community by library and information staff throughout the network of libraries and learning centres across the City.
- 6.3 Approximately 8000 sessions are booked on the Central Library's 36 computer terminals each month, with 347 individual ICT training sessions delivered by library and information staff between March and June 2004. A significant percentage of the local community who currently use ICT facilities in Central Library have expressed an interest in receiving advanced ICT training.
- 6.4 The approval to offer these recognised qualifications will enable the Communities Department to provide the facilities and support for citizens of Dundee to enhance their skills and thus improve their employment prospects.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, the Depute Chief Executives (Finance) and (Support Services), and the Assistant Chief Executive (Management).

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

**Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities**

Date: 9 August 2004