

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE - 24 OCTOBER 2005**

**REPORT ON: INTRODUCTION OF ViSOR**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK**

**REPORT NO: 610 - 2005**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to brief members on the proposed introduction of ViSOR (Violent and Sex Offender Register) to Dundee City Council

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Social Work Committee:-

2.1 Note the contents of the report and approve the introduction of ViSOR to Dundee.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The financial implications of introducing ViSOR are subject to ongoing discussions with the Scottish Executive. There are however no financial implications for Dundee City Council as any costs will be met through the funding arrangements for Social Work Services in the Criminal Justice System.

### **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The policy objective of reducing crime and ensuring people are safe and feel safe are reflected in the proposals to introduce ViSOR.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

### **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 ViSOR is a central database which is used to record information on sexual and violent offenders. It is used by all police forces in the United Kingdom, with all Scottish police forces going live from March 2005.

In addition to being a central database, the system also has the following capabilities:

- risk assessment and management tool;
- work control system;
- intelligence/information gathering;
- access to offender's history from other agencies
- investigate tool;
- accountability and audit tool.

- 6.2 The next phase of the implementation of ViSOR is to link in key partners such as local authority Social Work Departments and the Scottish Prison Service. Dundee is one of four local authority sites identified to pilot the system. Dundee was selected primarily because the ViSOR terminal is sited in the police room in Friarfield House and it was felt the security requirements could be met.
- 6.3 Staff from Dundee are currently working with the ViSOR implementation team and it is hoped the system will go live in the autumn. Although the term 'pilot' is being used it is anticipated that the system will be rolled out nationally therefore it is important that the approaches adopted by Dundee can be replicated and that the development forms part of the ongoing review of approaches to sexual and violent offenders.
- 6.4 The system will undoubtedly improve information sharing between the key agencies involved in assessing and managing the risks posed by sexual and violent offenders and both Police and Criminal Justice are currently reviewing their working practices to accommodate ViSOR and ensure arrangements for managing sex offenders in the community are robust.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Tayside Police have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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Date: 10 October 2005