

**REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE -
16 DECEMBER 2002**

REPORT ON: INSTALLATION OF CAFES DISCOVERY AT FOUR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 890-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval under the Reallocation of Scottish Budget Resources to establish 'Cafes Discovery' at a further four secondary schools.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve:

- (i) the installation of Cafes Discovery at Baldrigon Academy, Grove Academy, Harris Academy and St Saviour's RC High School with associated cashless "swipe" systems.
- (ii) that Tayside Contracts procure the Café Discovery components (livery, furniture, signage and cashless system) and that the Education Department procure the decoration and necessary electrical works through existing contracts.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The full cost of these proposals will be met from the Reallocation of Scottish Budget Resources 2002/2003 (£2.9M).

3.2 The estimated cost of this provision is:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Type of work | 4 x Schools |
| Cashless System | 72,000 |
| Furniture/signage Painterwork) | 125,000 |
| Electrical) | 28,000 |
| Total | <u>£225,000</u> |

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This programme promotes healthy eating whilst improving ethos and pupil behaviour in the dining area.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The establishment of a cashless system of payment reduces the social stigma of free school meals.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Scottish Ministers established an expert Panel on School Meals in January 2002 with a remit to provide costed recommendations and a fully developed implementation strategy to:
- establish standards for school meals
 - improve the presentation of school meals to improve general take-up
 - eliminate any stigma attached to take up free school meals
- 6.2 The Panel comprised representatives from universities, agencies, HM Inspectorate of Schools and Head Teachers.
- 6.3 As a result of the information gathered they advised that a school dining room designed and managed to meet the needs of all diners is a crucial pre-requisite to eliminating stigma, increasing uptake, encouraging informed food choices and improving the diet and health of Scotland's school children.

7.0 CURRENT SITUATION

- 7.1 Dundee City Council has to date refurbished a number of secondary school dining areas to create a "shopping mall" dining atmosphere. These dining areas have been named Cafes Discovery. The dining rooms are brightly decorated with modern liveried furniture, fittings and piped music.
- 7.2 A wide menu choice is available. Healthy eating is promoted by ensuring good visibility and presentation and healthy options; price incentives such as "meal deals" and schemes offering rewards for healthy food choices.
- 7.3 The cashless "swipe" system not only reduces stigma, but also speeds up the payment process, rewarding healthy eating choices and eliminates the need for pupils to carry money, reducing the risk of some forms of bullying.
- 7.4 This initiative has already been taken forward at four secondary schools 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.

8.0 PROPOSAL

- 8.1 To roll out the programme of Cafes Discovery in four secondary schools.
- 8.2 The nature and scale of the work required including the temporary loss of existing facilities means that the work must be undertaken during school holiday periods.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 The Director of Finance, Tayside Contracts and Head Teachers have been contacted in the preparation of this report.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 No background 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.

ANNE WILSON
Director of Education

29 November 2002

AW/LW/EAG