

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
14 AUGUST 2000**

REPORT ON: SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT INFORMATION CENTRE (SPICE) INITIATIVE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 502-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report seeks approval to pilot an initiative, at the invitation of the Scottish Library Association, to promote access to the Scottish Parliament Information Centre materials.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to approve the acceptance of £6,000 from the Scottish Library Association and approve the implementation of the pilot initiative.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The matched funding of in-kind contribution can be contained within the 2000/2001 revenue budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The initiative will contribute to the Council's vision of an active, informed citizenship.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The initiative will seek to increase access to information, thus enabling all citizens to play a fuller part in society.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Department has been approached by the Scottish Library Association to pilot an initiative to promote the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICE) collections. In Dundee these are situated in the Central Library's Reference Department and at Broughty Ferry Neighbourhood Library.

6.2 The SPICE collection consists of comprehensive and current information about the Scottish Parliament in the form of hard copy documents, together with access to the Scottish Parliament Website through PinPoint. Library staff maintain the collection and assist customers with its use.

6.3 To ensure that the availability and relevance of the collection is publicised to as wide an audience as possible, it is proposed that a part-time development worker be appointed on a six-month contract. The postholder, a chartered or qualified librarian, would organise and implement a programme of training and awareness raising sessions on the SPICE collections for staff and public. Other duties would include participation in promotional events and outreach to specific user groups including schools, the voluntary sector and local businesses.

7.0 FINANCING THE PROPOSAL

7.1 The Scottish Library Association will contribute £6,000 towards the project, covering the cost of a development worker on AP2/3 for a six months, part-time contract (£4,900) and publicity material. NRDD has identified £3,000 matched funding (33% of total) in staff time, travel, subsistence, materials and training. The total cost of the proposal is £9,000.

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Chief Executive, Directors of Finance and Support Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 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.

Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development.....

Date.....

3 August 2000