

**REPORT TO: NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
12 NOVEMBER 2001**

**REPORT ON: INTRODUCTION OF LEARNING CENTRES IN NEIGHBOURHOOD
RESOURCES**

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 717-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report seeks approval for the City Architectural Services Officer and Director of Information Technology to obtain offers and tenders, and for the Director of Support Services and Director of Information Technology where appropriate, in conjunction with the Director of NRD to accept these offers and tenders for ICT communication systems and hardware, electrical cabling, furniture and building work incurred in the development of Learning Centres.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

2.1 The City Architectural Services Officer and Director of Information Technology be authorised to obtain offers and tenders for the work and materials involved in the development of Learning Centres.

2.2 The Director of Support Services, in conjunction with the Director of NRD be authorised to accept the offers and tenders as recommended by the City Architectural Services Officer.

2.3 The Director of Support Services, in conjunction with the Director of NRD be authorised to accept the offers and tenders as recommended by the Director of Information Technology for ICT Communication Systems and ICT hardware.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Funding has been secured from the People's Network of £401,648.00 over the financial years, 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

3.2 Funding has been secured from European Regional Development Fund of £237,890.00 over financial years 2001/2002 and 2002/2003.

3.3 Funding of £50,000 has been secured from Capital Modernisation Fund with submitted bids of £254,491.21 pending. Once awarded the funds must be expended within three months or by March 2002, whichever is the earlier.

3.4 Accepted offers and tenders will not exceed the value of approved funding.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The development of Learning Centres will allow access to ICT and a range of learning provision thereby building on opportunities for all citizens of Dundee to obtain the knowledge, skills and information required to play a full part in society.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The development of Learning Centres will ensure that all members of the community have improved access to the information superhighway and World Wide Web.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 As part of the Government's national initiative to provide opportunities for all citizens to access the information superhighway and World Wide Web, funding has been provided through the New Opportunities Fund People's Network. This funding secures the ICT hardware, communication systems and furnishings necessary to develop Learning Centres. The Centres will be developed within the City's libraries and centres.

With the development of Learning Centres, access to educational and learning opportunities will help promote a culture of lifelong learning and contribute to the work of the Department in regenerating communities and promoting active, informed citizens.

- 6.2 In addition, funding has been secured from the European Regional Development Fund to further enhance Learning Centre provision by refurbishing Libraries and Neighbourhood Centres and creating a readily accessible, warm, welcoming and relaxing environment for the local community.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Directors of Finance, Support Services and Information Technology and the City Architectural Services Officer have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 the preparation of this report.

Director of Neighbourhood Resources and Development _____

Date _____