

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE 19 FEBRUARY 2001

REPORT ON: ICT TRAINING FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 122-2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report brings to the attention of the Education Committee proposals for delivering a programme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) training for teachers and schools librarians. This training is fully funded by the New Opportunities Fund of the National Lottery and is integrated into the programme of training run by the Education Department.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Education Committee is recommended to:

- i) approve the arrangements for delivering ICT training for teachers and school librarians;
 - ii) approve the proposal to engage SCOTSYS for the training support for secondary teachers and school librarians,
- and
- iii) approve the proposal to engage Scottish Teacher Education Consortium (STEC) for training support for primary teachers.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the training programme is £636620 as detailed below and will be entirely met by the allocation of grant of £458 per teacher and school librarian.

Expenditure

Providers		2000 - 01	2001 - 02	Total
SCOTSYS	Secondary	100072	233503	333575
STEC	Primary	92058	214802	306860
Total				640435

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The training of teachers and school librarians is a key element of the Education Department's initiative to give greater access to the benefits of Information and Computer Technology to all staff and young people.

6.0 REPORT

6.1 Dundee City Council has made a major investment in ICT in its schools through the development of Dundee City School Net. As a result it is considered to be a leader in this field in Scotland. A key factor in the successful implementation of ICT in schools will be the training and support for teachers and school staff. Dundee City Council has a well established programme of staff training for Primary teachers who were first into the Council's ICT programme for schools. This report outlines how this training will be developed, linked into a national programme to support ICT training for teachers and extended to include secondary teachers and librarians.

6.2 A national programme for ICT training for teachers and school librarians is funded by the New Opportunities Fund of the Lottery. This provides the equivalent of £458 per teacher and school librarian. This funding cannot be accessed directly by teachers, schools or local authorities but must be spent through a training provider approved by the New Opportunities Fund. Approved training providers include universities, colleges of education and other training organisations mainly grouped in consortia arrangements. Local Authorities have responsibility for co-ordinating and monitoring this process.

6.3 The training offered by approved providers is primarily in the form of distance learning materials, online support via the internet and limited direct instruction. This does not accord with Dundee City Council Education Department's programme which has focused on the provision of local trainers able to offer direct and immediate support to teachers.

6.4 Following discussions with Head Teachers and Teacher Unions the Education Department has identified two training providers who it is felt can offer the most appropriate training customised to integrate with our existing training.

STEC (Northern College, University of Strathclyde, University of Edinburgh) - Primary Teachers
SCOTSYS - Secondary Teachers and School Librarians

6.5 In addition to providing a training programme and support materials (written, on CD and via the internet), both providers have agreed that Dundee City Council Education Department will provide direct tutor support to teachers. This will fund the staffing and training costs of two teams of staff tutors. These will be leading classroom practitioners seconded to develop additional training materials and will provide face to

face tutorials for staff. In secondary schools some 60 subject specialists have also been trained as tutors who will support the inservice training programme.

6.6 Tutor training, needs assessment and some initial training have now been carried for secondary staff. The programme of training will provide up to four half-day training sessions over the next 12 to 18 months for all secondary teachers and school librarians. Training will take place during inservice days and end on to the school day. In addition staff will have access to self-study materials and additional support for tutors and from online sources. This will allow staff, who wish to do so, to further extend their training. The programme for primary teachers is currently being finalised and will add additional support materials to the current programme of staff training in school provided by tutors. Additional training will also be for primary teachers provided during the normal school day, supported by a small team of supply teachers and on inservice days in session 2001 – 2002.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The model outlined above brings a number of distinct benefits to Dundee teachers. It builds on and enriches the current training programme. It provides all teachers with invaluable direct tutor support. Dundee City Council Education Department benefits from a team of staff tutors and a pool of highly trained staff in its schools who will be able to extend current training and contribute to future ICT development at school and city level.

7.2 Within the limits set by the New Opportunities Fund the programmes developed by the Education Department in conjunction with the training providers (STEC and SCOTSYS) represent an effective range of support for staff which provides value for money for Dundee City Council.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Director of Finance, the Director of Support Services, Head Teachers of city schools and teacher union representatives have been consulted 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 Date

Director of Education