

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: COUNCIL TAX PAYMENTS TO DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD BY PHONE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

REPORT NUMBER: 381-2000

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to obtain approval for entering into a further agreement with an external company to provide a phone service for the collection of Council Tax by way of credit/debit card.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Director of Finance is authorised to enter into a contract with MGT Ltd to operate a payment by phone service from now until 31 March 2001.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost in any financial year will depend on the take-up level of service but is expected to be in the order of £15,000 per annum.

3.2 The cost will be contained within the Finance Department's revenue budget.

4.0 AGENDA 21

4.1 The continuation of electronic/telephone payment systems will continue to reduce the amount of paper being used and fuel consumption as a result of a reduction in miles travelled to payment offices.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

Payment by telephone allows easier access to payment facility for persons who have difficulty travelling.

6.0 BACKGROUND

6.1 The Finance Committee at its meeting on 8 February 1999 considered Report No 87/1999 and approved a pilot scheme for MGT Ltd to provide for a period of one year a payment by phone service for Council Tax.

6.2 The pilot scheme expired on 31 May 2000, having been in operation for a period of 11 months.

6.3 During the pilot scheme the number of payments received was some 4900 and the total Council Tax collected amounted to some £653,000.

6.4 The cost of the scheme amounted to some £13,800.

6.5 The Council is presently unable to provide a similar service from within its own staffing resources.

6.6 The Council is presently investigating the possibility of extending the payment by credit/debit cards to other Council debts.

7.0 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 preparing the above report.

D K Dorward
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Date