

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2001

GATES GIFT/SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE PUBLIC LIBRARIES EXCELLENCE FUND

Report by Director of Community Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Committee that East Ayrshire Library, Registration and Information Services (EALRIS) has been allocated £14,000 by the Gates Gift/Scottish Executive Public Libraries Excellence Fund for a project entitled 'Learning on the move'.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Gates Foundation gifted £300,000, a sum matched by the Scottish Executive Excellence Fund, for use in Scotland alongside the People's Network Project. Public library authorities were invited to bid for funds for projects which demonstrated support for ICT (Information and Communications Technology) Learning Centres within the SIP areas.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Using mobile phones with Global System Mobile Communications (GSMs) to provide the datacommunications links to the council network and the Internet, EALRIS will install on-line laptop computers for public use on its South Mobile Library serving the SIP (Social Inclusion Partnership) area, providing community, business and government information, the library catalogue and access to information about learning opportunities.
- 3.2 A partnership with Kilmarnock College will provide ICT taster sessions in local communities using their BIG Bus, a mobile computer suite.
- 3.3 To encourage and support further learning, laptop PCs may be borrowed. Initially this service will only be available to learners attending the BIG Bus sessions.
- 3.4 The NOF (New Opportunities Fund) funded ICT training for library staff complements the project by equipping mobile library staff to support their customers.
- 3.5 The project sits comfortably with the SIP aims and council strategies.

3.6 The wireless datacommunications may also be used as a platform for the delivery of e-government and modernising government projects.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The funding covers the capital cost of equipment, vehicle modifications and BIG Bus tutor sessions.

4.2 The wireless datacommunications will incur additional revenue costs which may be met from existing revenue.

5. LEGAL/ POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 European Union Procurement Legislation has been complied with.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) Support the aims of the project; and
- (ii) Otherwise note the report.

William Stafford
Director of Community Services

WS/EG

18th October 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

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AGENDA