

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE – 5 SEPTEMBER 2000

WIDENING THE WEB – A LAUNCH CONFERENCE

ELECTRONIC MAIL FOR ALL TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STUDENTS IN EAST AYRSHIRE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to advise Members of a high profile conference to be held in the Grand Hall on Wednesday 20 September 2000. The conference will launch East Ayrshire Schools' access to electronic mail (email) for all students and teachers.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1** One of the Government targets within the National Grid for Learning (NGfL) programme for the comprehensive and effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) within Education and beyond is that all teachers and students should have access to email. The Government's "Challenge to Industry" was that commercial companies should help provide the infrastructure to support all the NGfL developments.
- 2.2** The East Ayrshire Corporate IT email system currently supports approximately 1,500 email addresses. To include all teachers and school students within this system would require approximately 25,000 addresses to be supported. This would have major resource implications.

3 EMAIL "THINK.COM"

- 3.1** In response to the Government's "Challenge to Industry" ORACLE (a major global software company) set up a project to eventually offer free email and Internet access to all staff and students in the UK. This product THINK was demonstrated by the Scottish Council for Educational Technology (SCET) in November 1999.
- 3.2** ORACLE has agreed to offer THINK to all teachers and school students in East Ayrshire free of charge. East Ayrshire will be the first Scottish Education Authority involved in this project.

4 THE CONFERENCE – WIDENING THE WEB

- 4.1** The conference will be in two parts – a morning session for invited participants and an afternoon session open to all teachers, parents and interested members of the public.
- 4.2** The following will be invited to be participants in the morning session:
Head Teachers and/ or representatives from all schools,
Representatives from other Authorities,
Corporate IT staff
Elected members
MPs and MSPs
HMI and other SEED staff
- 4.3** The main guest speaker will be Professor Stephen Heppell – one of the main advisors to the Government on the NGfL and related matters.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** Nil.

6 LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** Nil.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that members of the Education Committee note the contents of the paper.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

RG/NG
21 August 2000

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Implementing the National Grid for Learning in Scotland – The Scottish Office.
2. Open for Learning, Open for Business – The Government’s National Grid for Learning Challenge.

Members wishing further information should contact Graham Short, Head of Schools,
Tel: (01563) 576118 or Kenneth McKinlay, Principal, Quality Development,
Tel: (01563) 555650.

**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: GRAHAM SHORT
HEAD OF SCHOOLS**

AGENDA