

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET – 03 NOVEMBER 2010**

### **NEGOTIATED CONTRACT FOR FOOTWAY GRITTING**

#### **Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval to enter into negotiations with Peacock Salt Ltd, North Harbour, Ayr, to pilot the gritting of Priority 1 footways in Kilmarnock with the use of mechanised footway liquid de-icing sprayers.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** Cabinet on 29 September 2010 approved the Roads and Transportation Service Winter Service Plan which included details of the introduction of precautionary footway treatment routes. Two levels of footway priority, Priority 1 and Priority 2, were determined taking account of hierarchy guidance contained in 'Well Maintained Highways', the Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management, which was revised in May 2010. In addition it was highlighted that different types of plant and applications would be assessed to determine the most effective and efficient operation for footway treatment.
- 2.2** Within all towns and villages, 142km of Priority 1 footways were identified, with approximately 71km located in Kilmarnock. These will receive precautionary treatment. Priority 2 footways, comprising a further 56km, will receive post treatment when resources are available.
- 2.3** It is estimated that during an average winter, 45 treatments of the footway network will be required taking cognisance of weather forecasts and the treatment matrix attached at Appendix 3 of the approved Winter Service Plan.

#### **3. WINTER FOOTWAY TREATMENT**

- 3.1** It is recognised that the most effective and efficient way to treat footways is by mechanised means, as opposed to hand spreading of salt which is time consuming, labour intensive and inefficient in the use of salt with limited coverage being achieved.
- 3.2** The Council's Outdoor Amenities Service has confirmed that they have the capacity to undertake treatment of 71km of Priority 1 footways in

towns and villages throughout East Ayrshire, excluding Kilmarnock, utilising the existing five footway tractors and mini trailer salt spreaders.

**3.3** Investigations have been undertaken and it has been established, as far as is practical, that Peacock Salt is the sole provider of the liquid de-icing solution along with mechanised footway liquid de-icing sprayers in the West of Scotland. Investigations into alternative solutions including Safethaw de-icing liquid have been carried out and found to be significantly more expensive than the treatment proposed by Peacock Salt.

**3.4** Peacock Salt Ltd has available three, four wheel 'Kubota' quad type machines with the capability to spray a liquid de-icing salt solution onto footways and carry out precautionary treatment of the remainder of the Priority 1 footways totalling 71km and located in Kilmarnock, between 5.00am and 8.00am.

**3.5** The cost of engaging Peacock Salt Ltd for the winter period, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 is as follows:

Set up costs and stand-by = £17,380.00

45 call outs during the winter period @  
£383.00 per call out = £17,235.00

**3.6** Total for 45 treatments (see paragraph 2.3) of Priority 1 footways in Kilmarnock = £34,615.00. This is an estimated cost for an average winter and outturn costs will be dependant on the actual number of treatments instructed. In the event of the pilot proving to be successful it would be anticipated that a longer term contractual arrangement would be considered in future years.

#### **4. COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

**4.1** An effective and efficient footway winter service will contribute to the safe passage of pedestrians addressing the following themes:-

- Improving Community Safety
- Delivering Community Regeneration

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** East Ayrshire Council as Roads Authority has a statutory duty under Section 34 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 to 'take such step as it considers reasonable to prevent snow and ice endangering the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles over public roads'.

- 5.2** The Council's standing orders in relation to contracts (paragraph 20(1)) require Cabinet approval to be sought before tender negotiations can take place with a single contractor. Peacock Salt is the only local company that can carry out the footway gritting works with the use of mechanised footway liquid de-icing sprayers.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** The cost of footway gritting will be met from the winter service budget within Roads and Transportation Service.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** It is recommended that Cabinet :-
- (i) Authorises the Head of Roads and Transportation to enter into negotiations with Peacock Salt Ltd, North Harbour, Ayr, to carry out salting treatment of Priority 1 footways within Kilmarnock.
  - (ii) Otherwise note the content of the report

Elizabeth Morton  
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services  
JB/JMcR  
27 October 2010

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **Cabinet 29 September 2010 - Winter Service Plan and Improvement Plan**

For further information on this report contact John Bryson, Head of Roads and Transportation, telephone 01563 576310

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