

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - 7 SEPTEMBER 2005**

#### **WIDENING OF QUEENS DRIVE, KILMARNOCK**

##### **Report by Executive Director of Development and Property Services**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1** To request the Sub-Committee to agree to the above scheme being carried out by Roads Contracts, subject to benchmarked 'best value' rates.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** At its meeting on 28 June 2005 the Development Services Committee noted that the Head of Roads and Transportation intended to put the Queen's Drive widening scheme out to competitive tender, rather than proceed with a negotiated contract with Barr Limited who were on site at Bellfield at the time.
- 2.2** In view of the extended disruption to traffic and trade in Queen's Drive caused during the Bellfield works, it was also considered that to immediately follow on with the widening works would not be well received by the public.

### **3. THE CURRENT PROPOSALS**

- 3.1** The scheme has been revised to include lighting and ducting works and the final design is now ready.
- 3.2** However to produce a full set of tender documents, and proceed through a formal tender process would delay implementation of the scheme into the winter months and the run-up to Christmas.
- 3.3** The Head of Roads and Transportation therefore proposes to arrange for Roads Contracts to carry out the works, subject to benchmarked rates and prices to ensure best value for the Council.
- 3.4** This will allow the work to commence within the next 2/3 weeks, and be completed by the end of October, weather permitting.

### **4. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** In view of the requirement set out in the report for early commencement of the contract work and in view of the Development Services Committees' earlier consideration of the matter on 28 June 2005, the Head of Administrative and Legal Services is content in terms of the Scheme of Delegation, that the most appropriate route for early consideration of this matter is by a Chair's Sub-Committee of the Development Services Committee.

**4.2** In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 it is competent for an authority to award such works to an in-house provider without any external tendering exercise provided always that there can be demonstrated full compliance with the authority's statutory responsibilities in respect of best value. In this instance, such compliance is demonstrable through the use of externally benchmarked rates for the works to be undertaken.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The cost of the works, estimated at £90,000, will be funded from the Roads and Transportation's Capital Road Safety budget for 2005/06.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1** The Sub-Committee is requested to agree to the Queen's Drive Widening scheme being carried out by Roads Contracts, subject to benchmarked 'best value' rates.

James Lavery  
Executive Director of Development and Property Services

30<sup>th</sup> August 2005  
SG/SC

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**NIL**

For further information on the contents of this report please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 555734.

**Implementing Officer: Sandy Gillatt**