

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT – 10 MARCH 2004**

### **PROPOSED WEIGHBRIDGE AT UNDERWOOD DEPOT**

#### **Report by the Director of Development Services**

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

**1.1** To seek the Committee's approval for:

- a) The purchase of a weighbridge for Underwood Depot.
- b) The negotiation of a single tender contract with De-Icing Management Systems Ltd for its provision.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

**2.1** Development Services Committee, at its meeting on 6 June 2000, approved the procurement of a weighbridge for Gauchalland Depot, Galston. This was subsequently installed during the same year, and since that time has been used extensively during winter maintenance operations for the measurement of salt.

**2.2** By use of the weighbridge, a more accurate measure of salt usage can be achieved. The method of counting the number of buckets of the loading shovel, having previously established the approximate weight in each, does not provide an accurate record.

Further, the spread rate achieved on a route can be checked against the spread instructed. This is not possible without a weighbridge.

**2.3** It was previously the intention to install a weighbridge at Underwood Depot, if the Gauchalland unit was successful.

**2.4** Recently, the Traffic Commissioners have indicated to Local Authorities that they will be carrying out spot checks on the laden weight of vehicles, measured on each axle. There is currently no facility at Underwood Depot which will determine this information.

## **3. PROPOSALS**

**3.1** Several manufacturers have been approached and their proposals checked for specification and cost. Few are able to provide suitable installations which will measure individual axle weights.

- 3.2** De-icing Management Systems Ltd provided the weighbridge at Gauchalland Depot.

It is considered essential that the same type of weighbridge is installed at Underwood, in order that they can be linked to a common management system using the same IT software.

- 3.3** In addition, some minor upgrading works are required to the existing weighbridge at Gauchalland to bring it up to present day standards.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** The total cost, including the new installation at Underwood; upgrading Gauchalland, and providing IT systems would be £29,000.

- 4.2** The full cost will be met from existing budgets.

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

- 5.1** The Council could potentially be open to prosecution if vehicle axle weights are exceeded.

- 5.2** Under paragraph 10 (2) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts order for procurement, Committee approval is required both to negotiate a contract with one supplier and of the person with whom the tender is to be negotiated with a specific supplier to secure best value.

#### **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1** It is recommended that the Committee:

- a) Approves the purchase of a weighbridge for Underwood Depot and the upgrading of the existing weighbridge at Gauchalland Depot.
- b) Authorises the Director of Development Services to negotiate a single tender contract with De-icing Management Systems Ltd for the provision of the equipment.

**Stephen Chorley**  
**Director of Development Services**  
**10 February 2004**  
**AW/YK**

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Nil**

**For further information please contact Alastair Wyper on 01563 576310.**

**Implementation Officer: Alastair Wyper**