

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

PURCHASE OF A NEW COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE ROADS CONTRACTS UNIT

Report By Director of Development Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to lease a new communications system for the Roads Contracts Unit, combined with a vehicle tracking, data transfer and emergency alarm system.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Roads Contracts currently operate a low band radio system utilising North and South Ayrshire transmitters on a rental agreement. The system is antiquated and does not provide adequate coverage of our area. The band on which the system operates will soon be removed by the DTI from our use.
- 2.2 The new communication system, currently being trialled, will provide an up-to-date mobile phone based communication system.
- 2.3 The communication system is combined with vehicle tracking, data transfer and emergency alarm facilities. The vehicle tracking system uses satellite technology and computerised street level mapping enabling the location of any vehicle fitted with the device to be pinpointed to 10m at any given time.
- 2.4 This facility will greatly assist co-ordination of winter gritting, other emergency operations and general operations and provide accurate, reliable records for insurance purposes.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed to lease a suitable communication and vehicle tracking system. A specification will be drawn up by the Head of Roads & Transportation and procurement will be in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

4. LEGAL

- 4.1 Nil

5. FINANCIAL

- 5.1 The cost of fitting equipment to around 30 vehicles and installing all back up systems will be up to £25,000. Competitive prices will be sought from several suppliers for supply of an appropriate system.

5.3 The leasing costs of around £5,500 would be met from the Roads and Transportation Division's revenue budget for winter maintenance and emergency operations.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Committee is requested to authorise the Head of Roads & Transportation to lease a suitable communication and vehicle tracking system.

Stephen Chorley
Director of Development Services

SG/NP
17 May 2000

List of Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Sandy Gillatt on 01563 576310

AGENDA