

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2011

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS – TENDER ACCEPTANCE FOR THE HIGHWAYS WINTER BUREAU AND FORECASTING SERVICES CONTRACT</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH, STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members, in accordance with the Approved Scheme of Delegation, of any instances where delegated authority has been used by the Director of Technical Services with respect to the appointment of contractors. In this case, the tender procurement process for the provision of Winter Service Bureau and Forecasting Services for the Merseyside Districts, including Wirral.
- 1.2 The procurement exercise was undertaken by Sefton Council on behalf of all five Merseyside authorities.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That the report be noted.

### 3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 To advise Members in accordance with the Approved Scheme of Delegation.

### 4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 All of the Merseyside Districts (being Sefton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens and Wirral Councils) provide a winter service which is aided by the provision of weather forecasting and bureau services. The bureau services include the weather stations and computer software on which to view and interpret both the forecast and actual real time weather conditions data. Both are supported by a 24 hour consultancy service throughout the winter period.
- 4.2 The bureau and forecasting service has traditionally been procured collectively across the Merseyside region to ensure value for money and minimise costs to each individual authority. There is also the added benefit of being able to share

access to each others' forecast and site data which can be valuable in considering prevailing conditions.

4.3 Under the Approved Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Technical Services has used delegated authority to approve the appointment of the contractor as follows:

4.4 Project Title: Winter Service Bureau and Forecasting Services.  
Contractor: Vaisala (Bureau) supported by MeteoGroup (Forecast).  
Contract Term: 3 Years until 2014, with the possibility of two, single year, extensions.  
Contract Sum: Cost to Wirral Council is £51,116.07 (£17,038.69 per annum).

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1 The Council has a statutory duty to maintain the highway network.

5.2 Section 111 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 imposes an additional duty to ensure that where reasonably practicable safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow and ice.

5.3 The effectiveness of Wirral's annual Winter Service Operational Plan is dependant on the provision of weather forecasting and bureau services

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 Procurement solely by Wirral Council was rejected as collective procurement of this service ensures value for money and minimise costs to each individual authority. There is also the added benefit of being able to share access to each others' forecast and site data which can be valuable in considering prevailing conditions.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Consultation with the five Merseyside Districts was undertaken as part of this procurement exercise.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

8.1 There are no specific implications arising directly from this report.

## **9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

9.1 The total value of the contract for three years is £279,979.49 (£93,326.49 per annum) for the whole of Merseyside. Wirral's share of the contract over three years is £51,116.07 (£17,038.69 per annum) which is only a slight variation from the current cost and will be funded from the existing Winter Maintenance budget. There is no inflationary uplift provision within the contract.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are none identified in the Report

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required No

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 Accurate and effective weather forecasting minimises the risk of unnecessary use of rocksalt which is a non - renewable resource.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

(Include background information referred to or relied upon when drafting this report, together with details of where the information can be found. There is no need to refer to publicly available material: e.g. Acts of Parliament or Government guidance.)

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
None	