

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

15 MARCH 2012

SUBJECT:	PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES MODERNISATION PROJECT – PURCHASE OF SECOND-HAND VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR LESLEY RENNIE, CULTURE TOURISM & LEISURE
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the decision by the Director of Technical Services in consultation with the Chief Executive to purchase second-hand vehicles and equipment valued at £54,549 from Continental Landscapes Limited in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule (CPR) 21 'Exceptions to Procurement Procedure'.
- 1.2 The reason for procuring these second-hand vehicles and equipment from Continental Landscapes Limited outside of normal procurement procedures is because it was not possible to undertake a procurement exercise to purchase this specialist equipment in time for service commencement by the Council and also because it represented value-for-money for the Council.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Following on from the decision by Cabinet on 3rd November 2011 to not award an external contract for the delivery of parks and countryside services and continue the direct delivery of these services in-house, on the 24th November 2011 Cabinet were provided with an update on progress in integrating Highways Grounds Maintenance Services into the Council for 1st February 2012 when the existing external contract with Continental Landscapes Ltd expired (Minute 205 refers).
- 2.2 On 12th January 2012 Cabinet approved the use of £500,000 of the existing Capital Programme allocation for Cultural Services assets to be used for the acquisition of

equipment to deliver the Highways Grounds Maintenance Service from 1st February 2012 (Minute 261 refers). This report advised that it may be necessary for some specialist equipment to be purchased from the existing contractor subject to assessment of condition and value.

3.0 REPORT OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER CPR 21 'EXCEPTIONS TO PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE'

- 3.1 Following a formal assessment of the equipment and vehicles required to deliver the Highways Grounds Maintenance Service directly (in-house) from 1st February 2012, it was identified that certain specialist vehicles and equipment would be required. Due to the specialist nature of this equipment it was identified that it would not be possible to short-term hire and there would be a long lead-in time to procure brand new equipment (minimum 12 weeks) meaning that the challenging timescale for service commencement could not be met by either of these routes.
- 3.2 At this time the Council was also approached by the existing contractor, Continental Landscapes Limited, who advised that they owned the specialist equipment and vehicles used to deliver the service and they would be happy to sell this equipment to the Council.
- 3.3 An independent assessment of the used value of the equipment was undertaken by the Council's Transport Section (Children & Young Peoples Department) which confirmed that the equipment was in good condition, there would be a financial saving to the Council of approximately £100k compared with purchasing new equipment and overall purchasing this second-hand equipment would represent value-for-money for the Council.
- 3.4 Based on a written assessment by the Deputy Director of Technical Services confirmed with Corporate Procurement, the Director of Technical Services in consultation with the Chief Executive made the decision to purchase this second-hand equipment valued at £54,549 in accordance with CPR 21.1.1 (iii) applying to the procurement of goods and/ or services valued at £50,000 or more:

"Where the procurement is required so urgently that it is not possible to invite tenders and the time likely to be taken to undertake the necessary procurement process would (in the opinion of the Responsible Chief Officer) expose the Council to an unacceptable risk, challenge and/ or reputational harm."

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 The decision to purchase second-hand vehicles and equipment from the existing contractor helped to address the risk that the Council would be unable to put the necessary service delivery arrangements in place in terms of human resources, vehicles, equipment and depot arrangements to deliver the Highway Grounds Maintenance Service directly (in-house) from 1st February 2012.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 The alternative option of following procurement procedures as usual would have resulted in the necessary equipment and vehicles not being available in time for commencement in service delivery thereby presenting unacceptable risk, challenge and/ or reputational harm to the Council. The use of used equipment also reduced the initial cost to the newly integrated service.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 There are no implications under this heading.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 There are no implications under this heading.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 The cost of the second-hand vehicles and equipment was £54,549 funded from the Cultural Services Capital Programme.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no implications under this heading.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications under this heading.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no implications under this heading.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Cabinet is requested to note the decision by the Director of Technical Services in consultation with the Chief Executive to purchase second-hand vehicles and equipment valued at £54,549 from Continental Landscapes Limited in accordance with Contract Procedure Rule (CPR) 21 'Exceptions to Procurement Procedure'.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Contract Procedure Rule 21.1.1 (iii) as referred to in section 3.0 of this report.

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APPENDICES

None.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Written assessment by the Deputy Director of Technical Services dated 8th February 2012.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – PACSPE Contract Award	22 September 2011
Sustainable Communities O&S Committee – PACSPE Contract Award Call In	20 October 2011
Cabinet – PACSPE Contract Award (following Call In)	3 November 2011
Cabinet – Parks & Countryside Services Modernisation Project – Integration of Highway Services and Outline Delivery Plan	24 November 2011
Parks & Countryside Services Modernisation Project - Update	12 January 2012