
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM:	7
DATE OF MEETING:	6 th MARCH 2003	CATEGORY:	OPEN
REPORT FROM:	DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	PAUL EVANS (EXTN. 5764)	DOC:	s:\cent_serv\committee reports\environmental & development\vehicles plant 03.doc
SUBJECT:	DIRECT SERVICES ORGANISATION - VEHICLE AND PLANT REQUIREMENTS 2002/03	REF:	PE
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	ES01

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval of the DSO's Vehicle and Plant Requirements (2002/03).
- 1.2 To seek Members' approval to seek Open Tenders in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and to select the most economically advantageous tenders received.

2.0 Detail

- 2.1 The items required are as follows:

Replacement 7.5 tonne lorry with multi-lift hook-lift equipment (Fleet No. 248)

- 2.2 The Council's existing vehicle was stolen from the depot some months ago and, according to Police advice, there is now little chance of the vehicle being recovered. The Council's Insurers have approved the replacement of the vehicle.

Replacement Ride-on Rotary Mower (Fleet No. 236)

- 2.3 One of the Council's Ride-on Rotary mowers, used for mowing highway verges and open spaces, has reached the end of its useful life and the end of its financial operating lease. It is proposed to replace it with an equivalent machine.

Replacement Pedestrian controlled 32" Rotary Mower (Fleet No. 299)

- 2.4 The mower, used to hand-mow the Sheltered Housing sites, has reached the end of its useful life and the end of its financial operating lease. It is proposed to replace it with an equivalent machine.

Replacement Pedestrian hydrostatically controlled Cylinder Mower (Fleet No. 146)

- 2.5 One of the Council's 32" Cylinder Mowers, used to carry out hand-mowing in the Parks and other high profile areas, has reached the end of its useful life. The machine is several years old and is owned by the Council (not subject to a financial Operating Lease). It is proposed to replace it with an equivalent machine.

Replace hired vehicle with the procurement of a 3.5 tonne tipper vehicle

- 2.6 There have been major increases in the Grounds Maintenance workload in the past couple of years due to the adoption of open spaces particularly at Boulton Moor and Hilton. In addition, grass cutting frequencies have increased from seven times to nine times per year. Over 24,000 square metres of grass and over 8,000 square metres of shrub bed maintenance have been added to the schedules.
- 2.7 Accordingly, an additional crew has been added to the Grounds Maintenance establishment to deal with the increasing workload.
- 2.8 Thus far, the crew has used a hired tipper vehicle at an average cost of £5,500 per year. The average leasing and running costs if the Council was to purchase its own vehicle are estimated at £4,000 per year.
- 2.9 It is proposed, therefore, to replace the hired vehicle with the Council's own vehicle.

Replace hired mower with the procurement of Ride-on Rotary Mower

- 2.10 A hired ride-on Rotary Mower was used by the DSO last year, mainly to improve the standards of maintenance in Church Gresley and Newhall cemeteries and in Swadlincote Town Centre, but also as a back-up machine for highway verges and open spaces.
- 2.11 The cost of hiring the mower during the spring and summer months was £4,000. The average leasing and running costs if the Council was to purchase its own machine are estimated at £3,000 per year.
- 2.12 It is proposed, therefore, to replace the hired machine with the Council's own machine in order to maintain the high standards achieved last year.

New additional Wood Chipper

- 2.13 The Council's existing Wood Chipper was purchased during the financial year 1999/2000 via an Operating Lease that terminates in March 2006.
- 2.14 The machine is of insufficient capacity and not robust enough to meet the current requirements of the Grounds Maintenance Service, especially bearing in mind the increases in workload described in Paragraph 2.6. Costs, therefore, are incurred in transporting "green waste" to the depot for subsequent disposal at the Landfill Site. The new chipper will allow an environmentally friendly approach whereby the chippings can be spread over the shrub bed areas and, if appropriate, may also be used on sites such as The Woodlands.
- 2.15 It is proposed, therefore, to purchase an additional, heavy-duty Wood Chipper to meet current and future needs.

Procurement Process

- 2.16 It is proposed to seek Open Tenders for the above items and to select the most economically advantageous tenders received.
- 2.17 The items will be financed via the Council's Operating Lease.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The leasing and running costs have been allowed for in the 2002/03 budget.

4.0 Community Implications

- 4.1 The provision of the new vehicles and plant will help to deliver effective front-line services for the South Derbyshire community.

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The new vehicles and plant are required in order to continue to deliver effective front-line services.
- 5.2 The procurement process is in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.
- 5.3 The financial implications have been allowed for in the 2002/03 Budget.

