

**REPORT TO:** Housing, Dundee Contract Services & Environment Services Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2009

**REPORT ON:** Supply of Specialist Land Services Equipment

**REPORT BY:** Director of Contract Services

**REPORT NO.:** 126-2009

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To authorise the purchase of specialist grounds maintenance plant required by Contract Services, Land Services Division.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to accept the quotations received for the required equipment.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost of purchasing the plant of £41,525 will be met from allowances within Contract Services Department's Capital Plan 2008/2009.

**4. MAIN TEXT**

4.1 Due to health and safety concerns, Contract Services have re-evaluated the current methods employed to cut grass on steep incline embankments throughout the city. A number of trials have been conducted utilising radio controlled mowers at different locations across the City. An evaluation of the available specialist equipment has been made based on performance and two preferred mower types identified.

4.2 It is proposed to purchase one tracked mower and one wheeled mower in order that relative performance can be evaluated over the course of a gardening season. Both of these items are from single suppliers and quotations have been received as follows:-

- Radio Controlled Track Driven Mower - Angus Chainsaw, Arbroath - £25,500
- Radio Controlled Wheel Driven Mower - Fairways Professional Groundcare, Kinross - £16,126

4.3 The purchase and deployment of the radio controlled mowers will allow safer, more effective and efficient maintenance of a number of areas across the City with steep embankments. The performance of these specialist items of equipment will be evaluated at the end of a full growing season to inform any future investment decisions.

## **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

5.2 The major issues identified are:-

- i) each prospective supplier has been assessed to ensure their business complies with the Race Relations Act 1975.
- ii) in each case, manufacturers are increasing the use of recyclable materials and all engines fitted meet or exceed legislative requirements regarding exhaust gas emissions and noise pollution.
- iii) each item will be subject to regular maintenance and testing throughout its operational life to ensure compliance with standards set.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Head of Finance have been consulted on the preparation of this report.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**Ken Laing**  
**DIRECTOR OF DUNDEE CONTRACT SERVICES**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2009**