

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE FINANCE AND RESOURCES

DATE 29 SEPTEMBER, 2011

DIRECTOR PETE LEONARD

TITLE OF REPORT: FORESTRY CONSULTANT

REPORT NUMBER: H&E/11/206

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee on progress to secure the services of a Forestry Consultant.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- (a) to note the content of the report; and
- (b) to note that the expenditure associated with this contract is estimated between £350,000 and £750,000.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no costs to the Council with this appointment. The terms of the Contract state that the successful consultant will generate funding to realise major projects such as Tree For Every Citizen whilst at the same time meeting their own costs from these funding streams.

Such streams of revenue are Grants, marketing and selling of timber.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The role is critical in assisting in-house staff meet Council objectives such as Tree For Every Citizen.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

4. 1 Background

Aberdeen City Council currently owns approximately 400 hectares of woodland situated across the city and in 2009 embarked on Phase I of an ambitious project to implement the Council's commitment to "Plant a Tree for Every Citizen". To date the Council has planted 120,000 trees. It is projected that 90,000 trees will be planted in 2011. Securing and implementation of the City's WIAT I and WIAT II programmes, followed

by the initiation of Phase I of the Tree for Every Citizen programme, has highlighted the benefits of engaging professional forestry expertise whereby an outlay of only £5,000 by ACC has levered in funding and delivery of the order of £350K of project value to date, including the provision of management plans for the City's 400ha of woodland. Officers currently directly or indirectly involved in tree and woodland related matters needed to deliver and sustain the City's woodland objectives are operating at or near capacity within their own departmental remits.

Approval was given by Committee on 2 December 2010 to tender for specialist expertise to assist in the development, design, delivery and promotion of the future sustainable management of the Council's woodland resource at strategic and operational levels. This would make a significant positive contribution to the Council's environmental credentials and would help the Council become a national exemplar of Local Authority-owned and managed urban woodland.

The Tender documentation emphasised that the procurement by Aberdeen City Council of the specified consultancy services would be on a "no win – no fee" basis. In effect those tendering would do so on the understanding that consultancy fees and expenses would have to be met and absorbed by external grant and other funding.

4.2 Progress

After a competitive pricing /quality process, the successful consultant was accepted at the end of May. C.J. Piper and Co. scored highest on both price and non price items.

This company has had extensive experience in this type of work and has already begun preparation for the City's grant applications for both Woodlands In and Around Towns 3 and Tree For Every Citizen

6. IMPACT

This report supports the Community Plan's vision for land use and the environment, namely, for Aberdeen to be a City that protects, enhances and values its environment. It aims to achieve social inclusion, sustainable development and jobs and prosperity by increasing citizen participation and commitment, improving health, improving city cleanliness and achieving sustainable land use. By doing so it supports options 12 and 14 of Aberdeen City's Single Outcome Agreement.

It also links generally to the Council's policy statement, Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking, in terms of its declared intention to be an efficient Council.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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