

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Housing and Environment
DATE	14 January 2014
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Provision of Paddle Boat, Canoe and Bike Hire for Duthie Park
REPORT NUMBER:	H&E/14/009

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report advises Committee of the requirement for paddle boat hire to be available at Duthie Park and seeks authority to tender for the provision of paddle boat, canoe and bike hire at the Park for a period of up to five years.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) in accordance with SO1(3) of the Council's Standing Orders relating to Contracts and Procurement (approved 30 June, 2010), approve the request to undertake a tender exercise for the provision of paddle boat, canoe and bike hire at Duthie Park.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Health and Safety:

The implementation of a contract will follow appropriate Health and Safety Regulations and Policy.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

It is a condition of the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund that the Council provide paddle boats on the upper lake as part of the Duthie Park Restoration Project. A tender for the provision of paddle boat hire

was issued on 26 February, 2013, with a return date of 27 March, 2013, but despite notes of interest, no returns were received.

As a result, the companies that expressed a note of interest were approached in order to identify the reasons why they failed to respond to the tender. The capital cost of the boats, staffing requirements and the length of contract were the main factors for choosing not to respond.

In the early summer of 2013 Environmental Services was approached by Ocean Installer, an oil exploration company, with a view to their sponsoring the purchase of paddleboats. Subsequently, ten boats were purchased and gifted to the Council.

In order to comply with the conditions of funding, one of the companies who expressed a note of interest in the tender, was contacted with a view to them operating the boats for the initial first season. A short term contract was entered in to with this company and it provided paddle boats from 22 June, 2013, to 29 September, 2013.

Canoe and kayak hire was also available in the model boating pond, however the company who provided this service ceased operations at the end of this season.

The kayaks have been donated to the Friends group for future use.

If approved, the tender will seek the provision of paddle boat, canoe and bike hire.

Whilst the previous tender exercise was not as successful as anticipated, thorough market testing will be undertaken in order to improve the chance of success and to formulate a strategy that best meets the Council's requirements and the capabilities of the market.

## 6. IMPACT

The provision of paddle boat, canoe and bike hire will contribute to the delivery of the Duthie Park Restoration Project.

It will also assist the Council in delivering the following Single Outcome Agreement's National Outcomes:-

No. 12 – 'We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and enhance it for future generations' and contributes to other outcomes such as:

No. 6 – 'We live longer, healthier lives';and

No. 10 – 'We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need'.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The risk associated with this project is:

Not identifying a suitable provider which could lead to negative press coverage and loss of confidence in the Council.

In order to manage this risk, the tender document will be reviewed after consultation with the market place to increase chance of success.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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