

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure DATE 7 September 2010

DIRECTOR Gordon McIntosh

TITLE OF REPORT PAN - GRAMPIAN RADIO NETWORK – TENDER FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TWO WAY RADIO SYSTEM

REPORT NUMBER: EPI/10/211

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### 1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To bring to the committees attention the further option for improving overall communications throughout the council using a replacement radio network.

### 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the committee notes the contents of the report.

2.2 That the committee forwards the report to the Finance & Resources Committee for consideration as a project within next years Capital Programme

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The Capital cost of providing the necessary hardware and radios for the replacement system is £191,000.

3.2 There would be no ongoing site rental as it is proposed to site the aerial on the roof of a suitable tall Council building providing citywide coverage.

3.3 Running costs for the system would be £19,000 per annum, with costs shared equally between Waste and Roads. This cost would be met from existing budgets for radio licenses, mobile phones and a reduction in the vehicle location system, this would not be an immediate reduction but a phased reduction as the contract with Fleetstar comes to an end this is due to there being different service start dates within the contract.

3.4 Overall costs for Aberdeen City would therefore be £381,000 over 10 years. This is in comparison to the original tender costs of £909,601 over the same period.

### 4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

There are no obvious links with the Single Outcome Agreement or the Agreed Administration policy other than to improve service delivery through cost effective means.

## 5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

## 6. REPORT

- 6.1. Details of the radio system are contained within the Pan Grampian Report of 23/02/10 (Link to this report is given below)
- 6.2. The estimated useful life of the current radio system is now limited as more of the equipment becomes obsolete and spares are no longer available.
- 6.3. Grampian Fire and Rescue Services have managed and maintained the Local Authorities Pan-Grampian Radio Transmission system.
- 6.4. Although still within the Pan Grampian tender Aberdeen City has looked to obtain best value from the tender by forming a standalone system. By sharing the costs of the revised system between Roads and Waste the cost of the operation per service has been reduced.
- 6.5. The new radio system will be a 4 channel system with vehicle tracking. This system will not be as sophisticated as currently used by our winter maintenance and gully cleaning operations but will provide the time, location and emergency response.
- 6.6. Voice communication is provided by means of radio sets installed in vehicles and operational depots that allow one-to-one or group communication between operational staff.
- 6.7. The radio system will have the provision for direct dialing to a Council establishment. This will increase the ability to communicate between the on site staff and the office without any further charges. The cost for the provision of this capability is £31,000 and is already included within the £191,000
- 6.8. The infrastructure can accommodate other council services onto the system without any additional costs, however they would be required to purchase compatible hand held or vehicle mounted radios.
- 6.9. Whilst mobile telephone networks now provide more comprehensive coverage they are often jammed in a major emergency and retention of a privately operated radio network would provide continuity in these circumstances.
- 6.10. It was felt that the with current legislation on mobile phone usage and Council's approved Policy on the use of mobile phones when driving means the provision of mobile phones on vehicles could not be considered

## 7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Aberdeen City Council Policy on the Use of Mobile Phones

<http://thezone/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=9630&SID=831>

Pan Grampian Report 23/02/2010

[http://councilcommittees/Published/C00000140/M00001558/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](http://councilcommittees/Published/C00000140/M00001558/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)