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| REPORT TO: | HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES | AGENDA ITEM: 9 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 11 TH MARCH 2004 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE & DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES | OPEN |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | CHRIS MASON (EXTN. 5794) & BOB LEDGER (EXTN. 5775) | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UNIT & HOUSING MAINTENANCE UNIT - VEHICLE AND PLANT REQUIREMENTS 2004/05. | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL. | TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS01 & HCS 010 |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval of the Grounds Maintenance and Housing Units' Vehicle and Plant requirements (2004/05).
- 1.2 To seek Members' approval to select the most economically advantageous tenders received from the Open Tendering procedure.

2.0 Detail

- 3.1 The items required are as follows:

Grounds Maintenance Unit.

Replacement 4 x 4 Single Cab Land Rover, or similar.

- 3.2 The Unit's existing Land Rover (G237 JWX) is used mainly in connection with cemetery and parks works. The vehicle is now over fourteen years old and has reached the end of its useful life. It is proposed to replace it with a similar vehicle in order to continue to provide a reliable service.

Replacement Ride-on Rotary Mower.

- 3.3 One of the Unit's existing ride-on rotary mowers (R326 ORC), 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.

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

- 3.4 Members resolved last March to increase the frequency of highway verges and open spaces grass cutting from nine times per year to twelve times. The number of shrub bed maintenance and weed control visits to the Council's Sheltered Housing sites was also increased from once per year to three times. The increases were in addition to the extra Grounds Maintenance requirements due to the natural growth in the district including such sites as the Woodlands.
- 3.5 An extra crew was recruited at short notice last March in order to meet the extra demands and the crew has used a hired vehicle since that time.
- 3.6 The cost of hiring a vehicle is approximately £6,000 per year. The average leasing and running costs if the Council was to purchase its own vehicle are estimated at £4,400 per year.
- 3.7 It is proposed, therefore, to replace the hired vehicle with the Council's own vehicle.

Housing Unit.

Replacement 3.5 tonne tipper vehicle

- 3.8 The Unit's existing tipper (N101 XNU) has reached the end of its useful life and the end of its financial operating lease. It is proposed to replace it with a similar vehicle.

Replacement of Cargo van with Transit Van or similar

- 3.9 The Unit also has a nine year old cargo van which is nearing the end of its useful life and now needs to be replaced.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The items will be financed via the Council's Operating Lease.
- 4.2 The financing and running costs have been allowed for in the 2004/05 Budget.

5.0 Community Implications

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

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The new vehicles and plant are required in order to continue to deliver effective front-line services.
- 6.2 The procurement process accords with the Council's procedures.
- 6.3 The financial implications have been allowed for in the 2004/05 Budget.