
Report To:	Safer Sustainable Communities Committee	Date: 27 October 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment and Community Protection	Report No: ECP/ENV/AB09.25
Contact Officer:	Robert Graham	Contact No: 01475 714827
Subject:	Environmental Services (Roads) – Renewal of Weather Forecast Partnership	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To seek approval to enter into another four year contract in partnership with eleven other Councils for the provision of a Weather Forecast Service for the West Of Scotland.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Service entered into a partnership for the provision of a Weather Forecast Service on 16 May 2004. This four year contract was extended for a further two years and expires on 15 May 2010. The partnership requires to be renewed and a further contract let.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That the Committee remit to the Head of Environmental Services to renew the partnership with the eleven other West Of Scotland Councils for the provision of a Weather Forecast Service from 16 May 2010 to 15 May 2014.

Alan G Barnes
Head of Environmental Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On 18th March 2003, the Economic Regeneration Services Committee approved the entering into of a partnership with eleven other Councils for the provision of a Weather Forecast Service for the West Of Scotland. The partnership comprised Argyll & Bute, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, West Dunbartonshire, East Dunbartonshire, Inverclyde, Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire who were lead authority.
- 4.2 The successful company was PA Weathercentre (now the MeteoGroup) and the contract duration was for a period of 4 years. The terms of the contract permitted a two year extension and this option was taken up and expires on 15 May 2010
- 4.3 The weather service contract is a vital tool in terms of winter maintenance and flooding responses.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 Roads' Officers of the above group of twelve Councils wish to participate in a new weather service contract which would be known as the " Weather Forecast Partnership"
- 5.2 It is proposed to have a four year term contract for the period 16 May 2010 to 15 May 2014, with the possibility of a two year extension.
- 5.3 It is intended that the partnership share initial development costs in preparing the new contract documentation. The ongoing annual costs of contract administration including invoicing, arranging training and hosting Steering Group meetings would also be shared.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Finance
In the current year, Inverclyde's share of the overall contract cost is £17,041(ex. VAT)
It is anticipated that the costs for the new contract will be in that order since the specification is unchanged.
In addition, there will be an initial set up payment charge of £500 per Council paid to South Lanarkshire with an annual administration fee of £500 each in each subsequent year of the contract.

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect From	Annual Net Impact	Virement From	Other Comments
00649 000 30001	Revenue	May 2010	£17,500	n/a	
00649 000 30001	Revenue	May 2010	£500	n/a	

All costs for the weather forecasting service will be contained within the Service's Revenue budget allocation.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Finance Services has been consulted and has no objections to this report.
- 7.2 Legal Services has been consulted and has no objections to this report.
- 7.3 No wider consultation was deemed necessary in respect of the detail of this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

- 8.1 There are no equality issues associated with this report.