

ANGUS COUNCIL

FINANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

28 JANUARY 2003

MOBILE PHONE PROVISION

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report advises of arrangements which have been made to access mobile phone services from OGC Buying Solutions.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee note the terms of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

One of Personnel Services responsibilities is to provide advice to departments on mobile phones including the most appropriate deals for departments in respect of hardware, line rental and call charges in order to meet their service requirements.

For the last two years Personnel Services has sourced mobiles and line rental from OGC Buying Solutions.

OGC Buying Solutions is an executive agency of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) in the Treasury. It was launched in April 2000 as a result of a review of civil procurement in central government. Its aim is to achieve substantial value for money improvements in the government's procurement budget but it also offers the public sector the opportunity to access, through Customer Access Agreements, their framework agreements for a range of pre tendered products and services.

One such service which public sector organisations are able to access, as the Council has done to date, is mobile telephone services.

3. PROPOSAL

The OGC framework agreement for mobile telephone services and under which Personnel Services had been operating expired at the end of December 2002.

To continue to source mobile telephone services from OGC required the Council to agree to a new Customer Access Agreement based on a new framework agreement. This covers the period 1 January 2003 – 31 December 2006 with an option to extend to 31 December 2007.

Following examination of the Customer Access Agreement the Director of Law and Administration confirmed that the contract conditions outlined in the Agreement were favourable from the Council's position. The Director of Law and Administration also confirmed that as the contract had been negotiated through OGC all of the competitive tendering rules with which the Council is required to comply under Financial Regulations will have been followed by OGC.

In accordance with advice from the Director of Law and Administration, the Personnel Services Manager sought and obtained approval from the Chief Executive and Director of Finance in accordance with Financial Regulation 16.1.3 to exempt the contract for mobile telecom services from the tender and contract arrangement as outlined in Section 16 of the

Regulations. This enabled the Customer Access Agreement with OGC to be signed effective from January 2003 thereby ensuring continuity of service provision.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is not known what the total annual value (including line rental, call charges etc) will be to the Council given the growth in demand for the usage of mobile phones but it has been considered prudent to ensure compliance with Financial Regulations as the value is likely to exceed £30,000 per annum.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION

The Director of Finance and Director of Law & Administration have been consulted on the terms of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

HR/PerServMan

NOTE No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.