

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

11 JUNE 1998

STEAM-ENGINED ROAD ROLLER

BOILER REFURBISHMENT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT

This report seeks authorisation for the expenditure necessary to maintain in working order a vintage steam-engined road roller owned by Angus Council.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree:-

- (i) to authorise the expenditure necessary in the current financial year to repair and maintain in working order the Council's vintage steam-engined road roller.
- (ii) to consider making provision in the Miscellaneous Other Services budget for 1999/2000 and future years for the ongoing maintenance and operation of this machine.

2 INTRODUCTION

At local government reorganisation in 1996 Angus Council inherited from Tayside Regional Council the ownership of a 1928 Fowler 12T steam-engined road roller which had once been owned by Angus County Council and used for road construction and maintenance work.

3 DETAILS

Since 1988 this machine has been maintained on behalf of Tayside Regional Council and since 1996 on behalf of Angus Council by Mr Arthur Joss, a steam enthusiast and retired employee of Tayside Regional Council. Mr Joss has carried out this work largely by his own efforts and at his own expense as a "labour of love".

Mr Joss has also prepared the machine for show and has displayed and operated it at various locations throughout Angus (Angus Show, Kirriemuir Show, Glamis Extravaganza etc). On these occasions the Council has met the cost of transport (low-loader), coal and oil, and until now these costs have been charged to the Structural and Cyclic Road Maintenance budget.

For insurance purposes the roller is required to undergo a hydraulic pressure test every 10 years and this test falls due in the current financial year. An initial survey has indicated that in order to pass this test major refurbishment will be required. Boiler tubes (last replaced in 1976) will require to be re-newed, the fire-box needs welding, the inner chimney and other pipework require replacement all at an estimated cost of approximately £2500. The machine is however basically sound and has been maintained in very good condition by Mr Joss. Taking into account its long historical connection with Angus Council and its predecessor authorities, its use as an attraction at major events in Angus it is considered well worth the relatively modest cost involved.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the repairwork required for the insurance certificate is approximately £2500. In addition to this one-off cost the normal running costs for coal, oil, garaging, low-loader transport, etc, are approximately £700 - £900 depending on the number of events attended per annum.

No separate provision has been made for this expenditure in the Roads Department's budget for 1998/99. However this relatively small sum can be absorbed in the overall Structural/Cyclic Road Maintenance Budget.

It is proposed however that for 1999/2000 and future years that it may be more appropriate for separate provision to be made for the maintenance and operating costs of the road roller in the Miscellaneous Other Services budget. This budget would seem to be a more appropriate home for this unique item and separation from the Roads Department's budget heads would allow expenditure against it to be more easily monitored and accounted.

5 CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

6 CONCLUSION

For a relatively small outlay a unique piece of Angus engineering heritage can be preserved in working order and can continue to provide an attraction at local shows and events.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

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.

Reports/steam engine
27 May 1998
RWM/SCP

