

ANGUS COUNCIL**ROADS COMMITTEE****11 JUNE 1998****ROAD SURFACE RETEXTURING****HYDROTEXTURE TRIAL****REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS****ABSTRACT**

This report seeks exemption under Financial Regulations from normal tendering arrangements to allow a trial of a new method of road surface retexturing to be carried out.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee agree that the Director of Roads be authorised to place a contract with Jaques Plant Hire for retexturing a section of the B961 Drumsturdy Road in accordance with Financial Regulation 14.1.3(f).

2 INTRODUCTION

Contracts with an estimated value in excess of £5,000 are normally placed following a competitive tendering process in accordance with Financial Regulations. However where the appropriate Committee decides that a specific contract should be negotiated with a particular party Financial Regulations allow exemption from these procedures.

3 DETAILS

Increasing numbers of commercial vehicles over the years combined with spells of hot weather can cause "fating up" of surface dressings. The weight of traffic pushes the

chippings into the underlying surface in hot weather reducing texture depth and leaving an excessive amount of bitumen in contact with vehicle tyres.

Road Surface Retexturing is the process whereby the excess bitumen binder is removed from the road surface to restore surface texture and skidding resistance.

Various methods of retexturing have been developed over the years including burning-off, mechanical flailing etc, and these treatments are usually available only as proprietary processes carried out by a single contractor or his franchisees.

Recently a new method of retexturing has been developed using high pressure water blasting and suction recovery called "Hydrotecture". This method appears to offer advantages compared to other mechanical, chemical and heat-based processes in terms of safety, speed, cost-effectiveness and environmentally friendliness. The process is however only available from the Contractor who developed the system - Jacques Plant Hire. In order to promote the use of the new process this firm have offered to carry out a limited area of retexturing work within Angus at a preferential introductory rate and a section of the B961 Drumsturdy Road (from the Angus/Dundee City Council boundary eastwards) has been identified as in need of treatment. It is proposed therefore to accept this offer to allow a trial section to be treated, the new method of treatment to be evaluated and its effectiveness assessed over a period of time. It is not possible to put this work out to tender since the new method of treatment is only available from the contractor who developed it. Financial Regulation 14.1.3 (f) allows the Committee to decide that a contract should be with a particular party when appropriate as in this case.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The preferential introductory rate quoted by Jacques Plant Hire will allow approximately 7000 square metres of road surface to be treated at a cost of £7,500. This compares favourably with the normal rates for conventional methods of retexturing. There will also be additional cost savings since centre line and carriageway edge roadmarkings can be left unaffected.

This cost can be contained within the Revenue Budget for Structural and Cyclic Maintenance in 1998/99.

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

In order to carry out a trial of a new method of road surface re-texturing it will be necessary to apply Financial Regulation 14.1.3 (f) to allow an order to be placed with the only contractor currently providing this service.

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.

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