

ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING – MAPPING SERVICES AGREEMENT AND POSITIONAL ACCURACY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Abstract

This report advises Committee of the additional costs associated with the introduction of a new Mapping Services Agreement and of the costs of responding to changes resulting from accuracy improvements to Ordnance Survey mapping data.

RECOMMENDATION

The Resources and Central Services Committee is recommended to: -

1. note the contents of this report;
2. approve the additional expenditure
3. approve the signing of the Mapping Services Agreement subject to consultation by the Director of Property Services with the Director of Law and Administration
4. note that the Director of Property Services will submit a further report detailing the specific resource implications of Positional Accuracy Improvement for Angus Council.

1 MAPPING SERVICE AGREEMENT

Angus Council makes extensive use of Ordnance Survey and other mapping data to support its activities. The existing Ordnance Survey Service Level Agreement [SLA] has been replaced with a Mapping Services Agreement [MSA] through a tendering process managed by the Local Government Information House on behalf of all local authorities, police forces and fire brigades

The Authority Liaison Officer on behalf of the Director of Property Services manages this Agreement, and the associated mapping data and budget, as a corporate service.

The MSA achieves savings for the cost of Great Britain mapping services of 47% compared with commercial prices. However the tender identified that Scottish authorities had been treated more favourably under the previous SLA than their English or Welsh counterparts and as a consequence this has resulted in a significant increase in our costs.

In 2004/2005 the increase will be approximately £8,244 and in 2005 /2006 an additional £12,330 will be added to the annual running costs of the MSA.

An additional Ordnance Survey dataset "Points of Interest" has been purchased for use in the Council's Intranet GIS system. However from 2005/2006 onwards, additional funding of £5,160 per annum will be required.

2 POSITIONAL ACCURACY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Ordnance Survey [OS] is now using the latest satellite technology to update their mapping and as a result have found that map features (e.g. buildings, roads) are not in the correct position. OS now have a national programme to realign map features into the correct position. In some cases the existing maps may be up to 13 metres out of alignment.

As Council departments have a considerable amount of information related to and overlaid on top of Ordnance Survey mapping, the Council, like all other councils will have to undertake a corporate exercise to realign the council's records to the new positions timeously.

This is essential to ensure accuracy of records maintained by the Council and compatibility with the records maintained by other organisations, particularly government agencies and other partners of Angus Council.

It is understood that mapping data for the Burghs of Forfar, Kirriemuir, Brechin and Carnoustie will be realigned around December 2004 with the remainder of Angus being revised in 2005/2006.

A working group has been formed to investigate the implications for the Council and it is currently estimated that an additional £6,000 will be required for external consultants and software in 2004/2005. Preliminary estimates indicate an additional financial resource of approximately £30,000 will be required in 2005/2006

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the additional Ordnance Survey dataset, "Points of Interest", for 2004/2005 has been accommodated within the Ordnance Survey Miscellaneous budget for 2004/2005.

The increased costs for the Mapping Services Agreement estimated at £8,244 per annum, and for external consultants and software for Positional Accuracy Improvement estimated at £6,000, will be accommodated within the Miscellaneous Other Services budget for 2004/2005.

Additional costs in 2005/06 are estimated at £20,574 [£8,244 + £12,330] for the Mapping Services Agreement, £30,000 for Positional Accuracy Improvement, and £5,160 for the additional "Points of Interest" dataset for the Council's Intranet GIS system. These will be included as service development/budget issue bids in Property Services provisional base budget submission for 2005/06, to be considered as part of the 2005/2006 budget setting process.

4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights Act implications specific to this report.

5 CONSULTATION

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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.

M G Lunny
Director of Property Services