

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE - 3 FEBRUARY 2005

PRINT & DESIGN UNIT RENEWAL OF EQUIPMENT

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF LAW & ADMINISTRATION

ABSTRACT

This Report advises the Committee of a purchase of a piece of equipment by the Print & Design Co-ordinator under the special rules applying to opportunity purchases in accordance with section 4 of the Policy Statement governing the use of the Renewal and Repairs Fund.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked:-

- (i) to note that the Print and Design Co-ordinator has negotiated the purchase of a Mitsubishi Eco 163011 CTP Polyester System, following the approval of the Directors of Law and Administration and Finance;
- (ii) to note the proposals in Section 5 of this Report for the future use of the Print and Design Unit Renewals and Repairs Fund.

2. INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 2 September 1997, the Finance and Information Technology Committee approved a Policy Statement on the management of the Print and Design Unit's Renewal and Repairs Fund. The Statement was also approved by the Policy and Resources Committee of 9 September 1997.

Section 4 of the Statement makes provision for purchases to be made when special opportunities arise in tandem with identified need.

3. BACKGROUND

An Image Setter is an essential piece of equipment in transferring work from the design stage to print output, allowing good quality high specification results. The current equipment is 24 years old, having been purchased second hand in 1996. Apart from its age and increasing unreliability, it is not now manufactured or supported and the use of film in the print industry is rapidly declining.

With the above factors in mind, the Print & Design Co-ordinator has been researching suitable replacement equipment for a number of years and he is now satisfied that a polyester plate system provides the best solution to the Unit's requirements.

Two polyester plate systems were identified at costs of £71K and £35K respectively. After tests of both pieces of equipment, it was considered that the cheaper system offered by Litho Supplies was totally satisfactory for the Unit's purposes.

As competitive quotes had been received from both suppliers, it was felt that no further advantage would be gained by entering into a formal tendering process. There was also a degree of urgency given that the life expectancy of the existing system was very much in doubt.

Following detailed examination of the background research and the offers received by the Directors of Law and Administration and Finance, it was agreed to approve the purchase of the system offered by Litho Supplies Ltd at a cost of £35K. It is worth noting that, within this sum, the supplier will also provide, as a proofing device, an Epson 9600 large format printer. This now gives the Unit the ability not only to produce the necessary proofs for print purposes, but also to print one off display posters and backdrops.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This expenditure has been met from the Print & Design Unit's Renewal and Repairs Fund. After payment for this purchase, the remaining balance in the Fund is £171,720.

5. FUTURE USE OF THE FUND

The Print and Design Co-ordinator has considered the Unit's future equipment requirements in the light of the need, as a trading account, to pursue best value in the acquisition and use of resources. The Committee is asked to note that it is proposed to replace the current Heidelberg SM52 2 unit press (used mainly for full colour print production, Via 2 passes) with a 4/5 colour press. This would enable the Unit to print full colour in a single pass, thus reducing the time element and costs.

As the cost new for this sort of press could be as much as £350,000.00, it is intended to look to the second hand market. If the Unit was to source a suitable second hand press, then immediate action would have to be taken to make a purchase, as this type and age of second hand equipment is sold very quickly. Accordingly, in such circumstances, approval of the Directors of Finance and Law and Administration would be sought before any purchase order was placed.

6. CONSULTATION

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

CATHERINE A COULL
DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

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.