REPORT NO 512/01

ANGUS COUNCIL

ROADS COMMITTEE

26 APRIL 2001

STANDING LISTS OF CONTRACTORS

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF ROADS

ABSTRACT
This report advises the Committee on the current status of its Standing Lists and seeks the Committee’s approval to re-advertise for applicants wishing to be considered for inclusion on new Standing Lists.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee agree:

(i) that the invitation for applications from contractors who would wish to be considered for inclusion on the Committee’s Standing Lists be re-advertised.

(ii) that previous applicants be asked to re-submit up-to-date information in support of their applications.

(iii) that the Director of Roads continue to use the existing Standing Lists of Contractors until such time as the new standing lists are approved.

(iv) to note that the Director of Roads expects to be able to recommend new Standing Lists of Contractors to the Roads Committee in June 2001.

2 INTRODUCTION

The current Standing Lists of Contractors were approved by the Roads Committee of 6 March 1997 (Report No 302/97).

The Council’s Financial Regulations require that such lists be compiled every three years following public advertisement. Advertisements requesting applications from contractors who wished to be considered for inclusion on new Standing Lists were published in May 1999 but to date it has not been possible to compile new standing lists for presentation to Committee for approval. The Committee will also note that the revised project thresholds in lieu with Best Value which were previously reported on 23 November 2000 (Report No 1209/00) have led to substantially reduced volumes of work being procured from the standing lists in any event.
DETAILS

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM Regs) require that no person shall arrange for a contractor to carry out or manage construction works unless he is satisfied that the contractor has the competence to carry out or, as the case may be, manage that construction work. It is therefore necessary before placing a contract to carry out stringent checks on the contractor to determine his competence in terms of Health and Safety, Technical Ability, resources, etc. These checks are in addition to the necessary checks on financial soundness to determine the limiting values of contract appropriate to the contractor's business security.

The advertisements published in mid 1999 produced a very large response with 166 contractors applying to be considered for inclusion on the proposed standing lists for 22 different categories of work.

The competence of each contractor must be assessed for each category of work for which he has applied and to date it has not been possible to allocate the necessary staff resources to carry out these checks while at the same time giving priority to the development and introduction of the Department’s Quality Management system and a complete review of the Department’s Safe Working Practices. These major tasks are now complete with the BSI Registration Assessment of the Quality Management System imminent (assessment due on 1/2 May 2001) and the new Site Working Practices approved by the Committee on 25 January 2001 (Report No 115/01).

The Director of Roads is therefore now able to allocate staff resources to the vetting of contractors applications for the standing lists. However the information received in response to the previous advertisements on which these checks are based now require updating. It is therefore proposed to re-advertise for new applicants and write to previous applicants asking them to re-submit up to date information in support of their previous application.

The Director of Roads anticipates that the necessary checks can be completed in time to allow new Standing Lists to be reported to the Roads Committee on 7 June 2001.

In the meantime approval is sought to continue using the existing Standing Lists approved by Committee in 1997.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this stage apart from the advertising costs which can be contained in the Roads Department Administration Budget.

HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

CONSULTATION

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

In order to base the assessment of contractors competence and financial soundness, etc, on up-to-date information it is proposed to re-advertise the Standing Lists of Contractors and to request the required information directly from previous applicants. Until such time as new Standing Lists can be recommended for approval it is proposed to continue using the existing Standing Lists approved by Committee in March 1997.

Dr Bob McLellan
DIRECTOR OF ROADS

NOTE:

The following 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 this Report:-


Report No. 1209/00 - Best Value - Competitive Tendering - Roads Committee – 23 November 2000

REPORTS/stand.lists.april01
RWM/PP
11 April 2001