

11 PROVISION OF WEATHER FORECAST FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE (AN401-2004)

Since the loss of local authority involvement in trunk road maintenance the consortium issuing tenders for winter maintenance weather forecasting has been reduced in size to three member councils, namely Angus, Dundee City and Fife. It is considered that a consortium procurement of this service still provides cost benefits through economies of scale and shared tender administration, training costs etc.

For winters 2004/05 and 2005/06, three providers were invited to tender on the basis of a two year contract with the option to extend by one further year. Prices were requested for a specified core service and for enhanced services which vary in detail between providers. Submissions were therefore analysed on the basis of both quality (40%) and cost (60%) with the outcome as indicated in the table. (Year 2 costs/indices shown in brackets).

	Quality Score	Quality Index	Cost	Cost Index	Overall Score
PA Weather Centre	643	100	44,525 (45,225)	100 (100)	100 (100)
Met Office - Option 1	617	96	77,297 (74,132)	58 (61)	73 (75)
Met Office - Option 2	577	90	58,998 (55,833)	75 (81)	81 (85)
Met Office - Option 3	549	85	51,190 (48,025)	87 (94)	86 (90)
Weathernews UK	461	72	91,594 (88,429)	49 (51)	58 (59)

PA Weather Centre scored highest on both elements with an anticipated cost to the consortium of £44,525 (£45,225 in year 2) the Council's share of which is £12,160 (£12,370 in year 2). The contract includes an option for the Client to extend the service to a third year by increasing Year 2 rates in accordance with any rise in Retail Price Index over the preceding 12 months. Angus Council was the lead authority in the issue and return of tender documents and PA Weather Centre's tender has consequently been accepted by its Director of Roads in accordance with its Standing Orders.

Committee is asked to note the acceptance of PA Weather Centre's bid and to agree to the 2 year contract being extended to 2006/07 subject to a satisfactory service being provided in the initial 2 years and no significant developments in other providers' technology.