

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 15TH MARCH, 2004
REPORT ON: TAXI CONTRACT
REPORT BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (SUPPORT SERVICES)
REPORT NO. 230-2004

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To enable the Council to review its taxi transport arrangements and to appoint a firm until 31st March, 2005.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the contract be awarded to Handy Taxis on the terms and conditions outlined in this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Taxi costs are met from user departments' own existing revenue budgets and these costs will be contained within the 2004/05 Revenue Budgets.

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This review was undertaken from a perspective of Local Agenda 21. In particular, that resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised.

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council's own taxi transportation needs are adequately catered for.

6 REPORT

- 6.1 The existing contract has been in operation since 1st June 1998 when the former District Council taxi services contract was combined with that of Social Work to allow Social Work to benefit from the discounted meter rate contract.
- 6.2 Local taxi firms were invited to submit details of services they provided and charges involved.
- 6.3 Three firms submitted details as outlined in the attached appendix.
- 6.4 All firms bidding indicated they had codes in place for dress, conduct and fleet cleanliness. Users will be asked to report to the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) any instances of failure to meet acceptable standards in relation to dress, conduct and vehicle cleanliness as well as timeousness. This will allow the Council to take any shortfalls in standards to the firm's management which has not been necessary in relation to the current contract with Handy Taxis.
- 6.5 Dundee Taxi Cab Co. Ltd. also submitted information in relation to new technology in respect of a smart card system. In addition, Dundee Taxi Cab Co. Ltd. have the greater number of vehicles for disabled passengers, however, through feedback from users of the contract with Handy Taxis the number of vehicles available for disabled passengers adequately meets the Council's own needs.

- 6.6 Due to the limited number of Disability Awareness courses available the percentage of drivers who have attended from each of the three tender submissions fell short of the Council's expectation. It is proposed to reassess the position by 31 December, 2004 to allow drivers to attend the course throughout the remainder of 2004. If all drivers have not attended by then the Council will reserve the right to bring the Contract to an end.
- 6.7 As detailed in the Appendix attached, Handy Taxis' discount off the metered rate within the City boundary is 16% greater than Dundee Taxi Cab Co. Ltd. Based on previous years' taxi usage, this additional 16% represents approximately £14,500 per annum.
- 6.8 Having regard to all the factors involved it is recommended that the contract be awarded to Handy Taxis for an initial period of 8 months thereafter extended for a further four months should the Disability Awareness training expectation be achieved.

7 CONSULTATIONS

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Director of Social Work.

Patricia McIlquham
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)

Date: 10th March, 2004

**SUMMARY OF TENDERS AS AT 04/02/04 FOR COUNCIL TAXI CONTRACT
ADMINISTERED BY SUPPORT SERVICES**

Company Name	No. of Vehicles	No of Vehicles for Disabled Passengers	Drivers Suspended in the last year	Dress Code/ Code of Conduct	Fleet Cleanliness Code	No of Drivers who have attended Disability Awareness Course	Discount off metered rate within City boundary	Discount off metered rate outwith City boundary
The Dundee Taxi Cab Company Limited	55	Note 1 3	None	Yes	Yes	90%	10%	10%
Tele - Taxis	153	3	None	Yes	Yes	84%	10%	10%
Handy Taxis	157	6	Note 2 2	Yes	Yes	75%	26%	26%

Based on estimated value at the metered rate the annual contract value is £90,000:-

a discount of 26% would provide a saving of £23,400

a discount of 10% would provide a saving of £9,000

Note 1 Original tender submission stated 8. However information from the Company's Fleet Manager subsequent to tender submission intimated that 5 have been taken out of service.

Note 2 Original tender submission stated none. However Council records indicate one recent suspension dated 4.3.04 and one suspension dated 17.9.03 which is currently under appeal.

A review of administration systems is now being implemented by the company to ensure accurate submission of information in future. The Council will also undertake to advise companies in future of any suspensions relative to their operators/drivers.