

REPORT TO: HOUSING COMMITTEE – 26 JUNE 2006

REPORT ON: CARRIER & REMOVAL CONTRACT – 2006/07

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

REPORT NO.: 386-2006

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. This report details arrangements for extending the contract of Tayside Removals to provide carrier and removal services to the Housing Department for 2006-07.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Committee approve the continuation of the carrier and removal contract with Tayside Removals for a further year.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. This contract can be financed from the Housing Revenue Account.

4. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. None.

5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. None.

6. **BACKGROUND**

- 6.1. Tayside Removals have held the carrier and removal contract for the past 19 years. The work involved includes collection of and storage of the goods of homeless persons, collection and storage of goods in abandoned houses and at evictions, household removals and decants. Previously the contract went out to competitive tender however in the interests of continuity and standards of service it is proposed that the contract is extended on an annual basis through partnering with Tayside Removals.
- 6.2. Partnering rather than competitive tender is proposed for the following reasons.

- 6.3. Tayside Removals have held the contract for the past 19 years. Over this period they have provided outstanding service in terms of efficiency, reliability and cost.
- 6.4. The handling and storage of people's goods requires a high level of trust between client and contractor. Tayside Removals have demonstrated that they are an extremely trustworthy company.
- 6.5. Due to the level of trust and performance demonstrated by Tayside Removals they are able to work unsupervised when attending at evictions, abandonments and when collecting and storing goods. The ability to work unsupervised has led to significant savings in staff costs as Housing Officers do not have to be present when collections and storages are required. Any new firm would require to be supervised at all times with consequent delays where staff were not available and costs of staff attending abandonments, evictions and storages.
- 6.6. Tayside Removals have submitted an hourly rate of £35.00 both for day works and out of hours emergencies. This rate is competitive with other carriers used by the Housing Department. The rate represents an increase of 27% over the previous rate of £27.50 however this is the first increase submitted by the firm since 2001 and is not felt to be excessive.

## 7. **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1. The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and all Chief Officers have been consulted regarding the contents of this report.

## 8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1. None.

Elaine Zwirlein  
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

June 2006