

REPORT TO : DSO COMMITTEE – 12 NOVEMBER 2001.

**REPORT ON : DIRECT LABOUR ORGANISATION OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2001.**

REPORT BY : DIRECTOR OF DUNDEE CONTRACT SERVICES

REPORT NO: 710-2001

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the operational performance of the City Council's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) for the six months ended 30 September 2001.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- a note the operational performance of the DLO for the period stated;
- b where necessary, instructs the relevant Chief Officers within the City Council to take the appropriate steps to ensure the DLO achieves its performance targets.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 In December 1999 the Accounts Commission for Scotland published a report entitled Understanding our Business which "aims to improve understanding of the importance of management information and corporate management practices to the successful operation of DLO's". The report indicates that Councillors, as committee members, have a responsibility for the supervision and control of DLO's.

This report, along with other reports which are brought forward as necessary, contains information to assist Councillors in undertaking their responsibilities for the City Council's DLO.

- 6.2 In terms of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 as amended by the Local Government Act 1988 and subsequent regulations, Local Authorities who undertake construction and maintenance work must produce separate Revenue Accounts for different categories of work unless exemptions apply.

Three Revenue Accounts are published by the City Council:-

- a Works of Maintenance
- b Construction Work below £50,000
- c Construction Work above £50,000

6.3 The legislation also requires DLO's to achieve an annual financial objective set by Scottish Ministers for each Revenue Account published. Monitoring the financial objectives are the subject of a separate joint report by the Chief Executive and Director of Finance which is presented to the DSO Committee on a quarterly basis.

7 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

7.1 Trading Results

The DLO's performance monitoring report for the six months ended 30 September 2001 is detailed in Appendix 1. The actual turnover for the period is in line with expectations, however shows a reduction of some £1,162,193 on the corresponding period of last year. This is mainly due to a reduction in turnover on construction work over £50,000. Although this Revenue Account's income has fallen, the department is anticipating that the volume of large contract work will increase over the forthcoming months.

The first six months trading results show the surplus increasing to £520,217 from £320,928 for the three months ended 30 June 2001. The surplus while down on last year's comparative figures is better than anticipated for the period under review. The DLO has exceeded the financial requirements in each Revenue Account as defined by the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. These results reflect the DLO's commitment to continued improvement and the attainment of Best Value for the City Council's maintenance and construction projects.

The DLO continues to monitor and evaluate performance through monthly meetings of its Business Planning Group.

Based on the six months results the DLO will achieve its statutory financial objectives and exceed the £365,000 surplus included in the City Councils approved 2001/2002 Revenue Budget.

7.2 Works of Maintenance

The programme of work during the period under review was sufficient to keep the workforce fully employed and it is anticipated that the current level of activity will be maintained throughout the remainder of the financial year.

The Gas and Lift Maintenance service programmes are on target and in addition, during the period April to September 2001 the workforce completed the following day-to-day repairs and planned maintenance work: -

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>
Housing	
Responsive repair jobs including voids	37110
Out of Hours Emergency Repair Jobs	5992
External Cyclical Maintenance on Properties	2478
Non Housing	
Responsive Repair Jobs	4435
Out of Hours Emergency Repair Jobs	98

7.3 **Construction Work above and below £50,000**

The volumes of contract work undertaken during the overall review period were below the anticipated level of activity. Activity on construction work above £50,000 is expected to increase over the next few months and this should ensure the workforce is fully employed.

During the period April to the end of September 2001 the following contracts were awarded to the DLO: -

<u>Description</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total Value</u> £
Major Contracts	25	5,067,482
Minor Contracts	211	1,068,720

7.4 **Training**

The DLO's commitment to construction industry training is reflected by the recruitment of a further 10 new apprentices who began training during August 2001. This maintains the DLO's 10% tradesmen/apprenticeship ratio, which greatly surpasses the construction industry norm. Training and development of all employees is recognised by the department's management team as being critical to maintaining the organisation's success.

THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN RECOGNISED FOR ITS COMMITMENT TO TRAINING WITH ACCREDITATION TO THE PRESTIGIOUS INVESTORS IN PEOPLE STANDARD.

7.5 **Summary**

It is anticipated that the level of workforce will be sustained for the remainder of the financial year and the DLO achieve all the objectives set down in its Business Action Plan.

8 **CONSULTATIONS**

The following Chief Officers have been consulted in the preparation of this report - Chief Executive and Director of Finance

R P JACKSON
DIRECTOR OF DUNDEE CONTRACT SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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 this report.

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL - FINANCE DEPARTMENTDLO PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

<u>Revenue Account</u>	<u>Actual Six months to 30/09/00 (Previous Year) £</u>	<u>Actual Six months to 30/09/01 £</u>	<u>Estimate Year 2001/2002 £</u>
<u>Maintenance Work</u>			
Income	6,333,818	6,274,352	12,067,394
Expenditure (incl. Estimated Capital Charges)	<u>5,755,863</u>	<u>5,871,848</u>	<u>11,838,784</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>577,955</u>	<u>402,504</u>	<u>228,610</u>
<u>Construction Work below £50,000</u>			
Income	102,827	180,933	309,103
Expenditure (incl. Estimated Capital Charges)	<u>96,302</u>	<u>163,393</u>	<u>294,066</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>6,525</u>	<u>17,540</u>	<u>15,037</u>
<u>Construction Work above £50,000</u>			
Income	3,152,470	1,971,637	5,286,550
Expenditure (incl. Estimated Capital Charges)	<u>3,004,600</u>	<u>1,871,464</u>	<u>5,165,197</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>147,870</u>	<u>100,173</u>	<u>121,353</u>
<u>Total</u>			
Income	9,589,115	8,426,922	17,663,047
Expenditure (incl. Estimated Capital Charges)	<u>8,856,765</u>	<u>7,906,705</u>	<u>17,298,047</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>732,350</u>	<u>520,217</u>	<u>365,000</u>