

**6 PROVISION OF WEATHER FORECASTING SERVICE FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE (AN252-2007)**

A consortium of Dundee City Council, Angus Council, Fife Council and Perth and Kinross Council issued tenders for the winter maintenance weather forecasting service. It is considered that a consortium procurement of this service provides cost benefits through economies of scale and shared tender administration, training costs etc and is in line with the government's shared procurement strategy.

For winters 2007/08 and 2008/09, 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 below. (Year 2 costs/indices shown in brackets).

	<b>Quality Score</b>	<b>Quality Index</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>	<b>Cost Index</b>	<b>Overall Score</b>
<b>Year 1 - 2007-2008</b>					
MeteoGroup	624	100	61,598 (62,456)	92 (91)	100 (100)
WSI (Weather Services International)	525	84	56,750 (56,750)	100 (100)	98 (99)
Met Office - Option 1	585	94	77,029 (79,755)	74 (71)	86 (85)
Met Office - Option 2	585	94	84,600 (87,487)	67 (65)	82 (81)

Based on the cost and quality assessment as described above, the MeteoGroup's tender was the most advantageous with Dundee City Council's resulting share being £11,075 (£11,419 in year 2).

It should be noted that 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.

Committee is asked to authorise the acceptance of MeteoGroup's bid and to agree to the 2year contract being extended to 2009/10 subject to a satisfactory service being provided in the initial 2 years and no significant developments in other providers' technology.