

REPORT TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
(22ND AUGUST 2005)

REPORT ON: CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY – SITE INVESTIGATION
CONTRACTS

REPORT BY: HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & TRADING STANDARDS

REPORT NO. 500-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make recommendations for the continuing implementation of the Contaminated Land Regime, in particular letting of contracts for site investigation works.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the committee approve the following measures that will ensure that efficient site inspection procedures are undertaken under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in 2005-2006.
- It is intended that Environmental Health & Trading Standards (EHTS) continue to use the City Engineers in a consulting role, utilising their expertise in reviewing reports, tender preparation and project management.
 - The Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) be authorised to accept the most favourable tender for each work package as recommended by the City Engineer. All such tenders will be reported retrospectively to committee for information.
 - It is recommended that the committee approve the spending of up to £271k in financial year 2005-2006 for the purposes of progressing the Contaminated Land Strategy

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Scottish Executive provides funding to local authorities to assist them with the implementation of the contaminated land regime, including site investigation and remediation works. In this current financial year (2005-06) Dundee City Council has been allocated £142k. In addition £129k has been carried forward from previous years providing a total of £271k for contaminated land capital works.
- 3.2 The expenditure required for implementing the above recommendations can be met from the existing Environmental Health & Trading Standards Department's capital budget.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The objectives of this report will serve to enhance the aims of Dundee 21. The key themes that will be addressed by this report are:
- Pollution is limited to levels at which natural systems can cope.
 - The diversity of nature is valued and protected.
 - Health is protected by creating safe, clean, pleasant environments and health services which emphasise prevention of illness as well as care for the sick.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Reference is made to Committee Report 477/2001 when the council's Contaminated Land Strategy was agreed by the Environmental and Consumer Protection Committee and Agenda Note dated 14th March 2005 relating to use of a Unit Rate Contract, which was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee.
- 6.2 Since the adoption of the Strategy, substantial progress has been made, including prioritisation of sites for inspection, preparation of 68 no. Phase I (desk-based) study reports, and commission of 3 no. Phase II (physical or intrusive) site investigations.
- 6.3 The next stage in the process is the assessment of the results of the Phase I studies and reprioritisation of sites to be progressed to Phase II site investigations.
- 6.4 The work carried out is dependent on site-specific conditions encountered at individual sites, and to this end, site investigation and remedial work will be costed on a project basis.
- 6.5 It is proposed that EHTS identify appropriate sites for investigation and continue to work with the City Engineer to prepare tenders based on the Unit Rate Contract for each work package. In order to avoid delays in carrying out these works and to maximise spend of the available budget, it is recommended that the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) be authorised to accept the most favourable tender recommended by the City Engineer for each work package. A report on each work package that has been let will be reported retrospectively to committee for information.
- 6.6 An audited account showing all expenditure incurred by the council is submitted to the Scottish Executive at the end of each financial year.

7.0 CONSULTATION

Chief Executive
Depute Chief Executive (Finance)
Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)
Director of Planning & Transportation
Director of Economic Development

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Albert Oswald
Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards

Date 17 August 2005