

**REPORT TO: CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 27 FEBRUARY 2012**

**REPORT ON: ROAD MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT NO: 88-2012**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to extend the existing partnership with Dundee City Council and Tayside Contracts for the shared service delivery of Road Maintenance and Minor Works Services across the geographical area of the council.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee note the contents of this report and agree:
- i to extend the Partnership scheme to 31 March 2015.
  - ii that the Director of City Development Department be remitted to report back annually to Committee advising on progress and performance.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article VI of the Planning and Transport Committee of 9 March 2009 when approval was given to formalise the Road Maintenance and Minor Works Services Partnership with Tayside Contracts for a period of three years.
- 4.2 The Partnership operates as an integrated team under a single Road Maintenance Partnership Manager covering both Dundee City Council and Tayside Contracts and has many benefits for both parties:
- The larger team is more adaptable in dealing with peaks and troughs in workload.
  - The production of common specifications and agreed approach of longer term maintenance strategies has reduced the unit cost of repairs.
  - The arrangement also meets the Scottish Governments objectives in increased partnership working in line with the Efficient Government Agenda.
  - The implemented structure has provided opportunities for efficiencies and reduced staff costs for both the Council and Tayside Contracts.
- 4.3 The present Partnering Agreement ends on the 31 March 2012 after a very successful three year period. Over the last 3 years the Partnership has consistently performed well against its various objectives and its key service performance indicators. A summary of the latest performance results from 2009 to 2011 is attached in Appendix 1. In summary, the Road Maintenance Partnership has improved in performance over the period with some of the key areas identified below.
- 4.4 Pothole repairs continue to be an important focus for the Partnership both in terms the quality of the repair and the speed of the repair depending on its category and location. Although there has been a substantial increase in the number of pothole repairs carried out (22,843 in 2010/11 due to the severe winter experienced), the average time taken to

repair a pothole has continued to improve and there has been an increased number of permanent repairs carried out first time.

- 4.5 An overall focus on quality had been identified as a critical area for development over the agreed 3 year period of the partnership, this with a view to providing a right first time high quality service in all areas of the partnership. Good progress has been made in this area as identified through Business Improvement Techniques process which has scrutinised the pothole repair process, gully emptying and the early introduction of quality monitoring of all structural resurfacing works on roads and footways. It is proposed to expand this out to all cyclic and minor works.
- 4.6 Following the severe winters of 2009/10 and 2010/11, improvements have been made in the delivery of the winter maintenance service. Extensive liaison has taken place with all key stakeholders to ensure a structured approach is taken across the city. Salt stocks have been increased to give greater resilience. There have been improved plans and allocation of resources to routes around schools, social work properties and sheltered housing. There is a better preparedness for use of additional in house resource in severe conditions and additional external resources have been appointed to assist early in severe conditions. There are better communications with the public with an improved website, new winter leaflet and better information is provided to customer services to advise enquirers. Route information has been updated on the council web site along with grit bin positions and a link to request a new grit bin and for a grit bin to be filled. Route optimisation software was purchased and work is ongoing to carry out a full review of priority and secondary routes for implementation in the 2012/13 winter season. A review of footway plant for snow clearance and salt spreading is currently underway for implementation in 2012/13.
- 4.7 As part of a recent review of the roads maintenance service provided by Dundee City Council, Angus Council, Perth & Kinross Council and Tayside Contracts, a maintenance strategy group was set up to establish a common maintenance strategy across the three council areas, providing efficient service delivery during a time of potentially decreasing budgets. This is an ongoing process with consideration being given to increasing the use of alternative processes such as slurry sealing of footways, delivering more for less. Rationalising the surfacing materials used to provide consistency across the three Council areas will help reduce production costs at source. Consideration is also being given as to utilising appropriate resources across boundaries.
- 4.8 The partnership is continually aware of the impact road maintenance has on the environment and has worked hard to minimise this and recycle wherever possible. This has been achieved in various areas such as the use of recycled Baldovie Ash in bituminous materials, all excavated material being returned for processing into recycled aggregates for use in road pavements, returning gully waste to a reed bed recycling system for reuse of water and composting and being a key pioneer in the development of Tayset, a Tayside Contracts 'long life' cold bituminous material.
- 4.9 A number of further areas of potential development have been identified and will be actively pursued. Listed below are the main areas of work where the Partnership is realising further improvements:
- Continue to monitor and review the quality of service provided through the partnership, focusing on operational quality and customer perception.
  - Review the delivery of minor works elements of the partnership, to ensure an effective and expedient response in accordance with current national standards and best practice.
  - Continue to develop systems and processes to ensure a right first time quality service is being delivered.

- Continue the review of the current procedures for pothole repairs with a view to increasing the percentage of first time permanent repairs.
- Continue to work together to establish further KPI's and drive down the unit cost of repairs, reinvesting efficiency savings back into the road network.
- Continue to establish a computerised asset management system and produce a comprehensive Roads Asset Management Plan.
- Investigate the option of creating a reed bed recycling and composting facility within Dundee to make further environmental and cost efficiency savings in the current gully cleaning process.

Some of these initiatives and projects will take time to develop and taking account of this and the evidence of the successes achieved to date, it is recommended that this successful Partnership be extended for a further period of 3 years

## **5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

## **6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Director of Finance, and Managing Director Tayside Contracts have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Report No. 138-2009 to the Planning and Transport Committee of 9 March 2009.
- 7.2 Report No. 430-2011 to the City Development Committee of 26 September 2011.
- 7.3 Report No. 431-2011 to the City Development Committee of 26 September 2011.

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8 February 2012

Dundee City Council  
Dundee House  
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## Road Maintenance Partnership Performance

	Headings	Measures	Target	Dundee			
				2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 (Info to Dec 11)
Condition/Asset	Reliability	Dundee City Road Condition Indicator (RCI)		23.2	25.6	28	N/A
		Cities Average Road Condition Indicator (RCI)		27	30	33	N/A
		Scottish Average Road Condition Indicator (RCI)		34	36	38	N/A
Customer Service	Repair Times	Total number of pothole repairs		8291	14552	22843	14311
		Average time taken to repair Category 1 (Hours)	1 hour	N/A	0.36	0.54	0.54
		Average time taken to repair Category 2 (Days)	3 days	N/A	3.19	2.98	1.50
	Public perception	Average time taken to repair Category 3 (Days)	28 days	N/A	8.17	6.78	6.64
		% of CAT 1 repairs within 3 hours	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%
		% of CAT 2 repairs within 3 days	85%	96%	81%	85%	95%
		% of CAT 1 repairs within 28 Days	85%	98%	97%	97%	100%
		Permanent repairs as a % of potholes		0.00%	20.00%	47.00%	31.00%
		Area of Footway Treated Sq.m		24,111	27,985	14,312	N/A
		Area of Carriageway Treated Sq.m		86,884	100,035	127,664	N/A
Number of gullies cleaned annually		34,182	24,563	25,860	23,783		
Financial	Financial Costs	Average costs of pothole repair		£23.27	£14.28	£11.61	£10.30
		Average cost per Sq.m of surfacing		£16.84	£15.71	£18.03	£20.70
		Average cost per Sq.m of patching		£36.18	£33.46	£30.73	£29.21
		Average cost to clean a gully.		£4.35	£5.67	£4.66	£5.79
Environment	Carbon Footprint	% of construction material recycled		100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
		Tonnage of cyclone ash used		N/A	N/A	460T	658T
		Annual savings in using cyclone ash		N/A	N/A	£45k	£64k