

To: HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: APPROVED CONTRACTORS LIST - CONSTRUCTIONLINE
From: DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & PROPERTY		
Date: 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2001	Ref: CC/SD/ECMS00225	

**Introduction**

Following submission of the report "Design Services Best Value Service Review", the Construction Services Committee agreed on Tuesday 23 January 2001 that a feasibility study on the possibility of the Council selecting consultants and contractors through Constructionline be undertaken.

**Background**

Constructionline is a national database, which contains information on approximately 8,000 contractors. Any contractor seeking public sector construction work can register with Constructionline. The process involves comprehensive checks of financial, managerial and technical criteria to standards agreed with the DETR (Department of Environment, Transport and Roads).

In February of this year, Constructionline invited all contractors on the Council's approved list (640 companies) to register. At the present time 381 contractor who are included on the Council's Approved List and, who have previously been invited to tender, are now members of Constructionline. This represents 97% uptake by contractors falling into this category. There remains, however, approximately 230 contractors who, although on the Council's Approved List, never participated in the tendering process and to date have not registered with Constructionline.

Constructionline is being actively promoted by The Scottish Executive in terms of best value, not only for Authorities as it does away with the need for the administrative function to maintain an approved list, but also from the contractors point of view as the contractor could fill in one application for Constructionline and be eligible to undertake work for other local authorities and public bodies.

The use of Constructionline would offer more scope and access to an increased number of contractors that may be required to complete the proposed capital works programme against a backdrop predicting an increase in workload in the construction industry over the next 5 years. To enable access to the database administered by Constructionline, Internet access has been achieved with positive results.

**Recommendation**

That Constructionline be used as the basis of the Approved Contractors List for building construction related works from April 2002, and that those contractors on the existing Council's Approved List, who are not registered with Constructionline, be advised accordingly with the opportunity to register by that date.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. J. O'.

**Director of Housing and Property Services**