

# NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

## REPORT

TO: PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: <b>REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPOINT CONSULTANT FOR A ROUTE ACTION PLAN STUDY</b>
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date : 20 March 2002	Ref: N/TT/73/14/DMcD	

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to appoint a Consultant in respect of works associated with the Department's Route Action Plan study. Completed Tenders, from invited consultants, had been returned to the Civic Centre on Friday 8 February 2002.

### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Department wishes to appoint a consultant to undertake a study of non-trunk routes within the Council area, to assist in prioritising and targeting the allocation of available resources. The aim of the study is to prioritise the spending of resources on a series of Route Action Plans.
- 2.2 The consultants had been directed to recognise that the prioritisation will be influenced by a range of factors, including the nature and extent of current problems on the route. The aim of the study is to evaluate these and any other related issues in order to develop a methodology for assigning priority to the different routes within North Lanarkshire and develop cost effective, costed, achievable solutions to the problems identified.

### **3. PROPOSALS/ CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Six consultants were invited to tender for the Route Action Plan study commission. One of the consultants declined to return a priced tender, due to the extent of the study and other existing work commitments.
- 3.2 A qualitative assessment was performed on the five returned quotes, which included consideration of the amount of each tender. The five prices, in ascending order, were as follows:-

1) Dougall Baillie	£15,475
2) Jacobs	£19,080
3) Babbie	£24,500
4) SIAS	£49,800
5) MVA	£55,500

- 3.3 Due to the considerable range in the prices and anticipated staff resourcing of the five different bids, a definitive determination of the bids was not possible. The Department therefore re-approached all of the consultants to obtain clarification on the level of staff resources allocated within their bids and to confirm the extent of additional traffic/ pedestrian

survey work that they had included for within their proposals. This additional information allowed for a more comparable determination of the competing quotes.

- 3.4 The lowest tender was submitted by Dougall Baillie Associates. However, the level of staff resources proposed for the study was considered insufficient for the level of detail required, plus they had not allowed within their price for additional survey work which is anticipated as being required. Also, they were not rated as one of the highest in the qualitative assessment. For those reasons, it was felt that they should not be awarded the commission.
- 3.5 The second lowest tender was submitted by the Jacobs Consultancy. The level of staff resources proposed for the study was again considered insufficient for the level of detail required. In addition, their interpretation of the requirements of the Brief did not provide for the outcome and deliverables that the Department had requested. They too were not rated as one of the highest in the qualitative assessment. For those reasons, it was felt that the Jacobs Consultancy should not be awarded the commission.
- 3.6 The third lowest tender was submitted by the Babbie Group. Their proposed level of staff resourcing was considered to be at a level necessary to perform a comprehensive study. Their proposed methodology, outcomes and deliverables conformed with the requirements of the issued brief. They were rated as first equal in the qualitative assessment.
- 3.7 On the combination of price and qualitative assessment, it is proposed that the Babbie Group be awarded the commission for the Department's Route Action Plan Study

#### **4. CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 In line with Council Standing Orders, Committee is required to approve the award of the commission due to the value of the tenders. A number of internal departmental discussions have taken place in assessing the suitability of the various consultants.
- 4.2 The decision was reached taking due cognisance of the aims of Best Value, which in this instance is achieved not through the choice of the cheapest tender but of the option which will provide the greatest return and benefit in terms of satisfying the aims of the commission for the most appropriate amount.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Committee is asked:
  - a) to approve the award of the Route Action Plan study commission to the Babbie Group, at a value of £24,500;
  - b) to note the Department's continued commitment to meeting the Capital funding allocation for the subsequent financial years, both in terms of this feasibility study and the subsequent physical works on-site that will be identified for priority treatment along specific routes.

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Any person wishing further information on the above should contact David McDove on extension 01236-616256