

INFORMATION NOTE

Purchase of Vehicle Under Exempt Contract Procurement Rule 3

As part of the approved capital fleet replacement programme, the handheld pavement sweepers (Green Machines) are scheduled for replacement. A contract for the supply of two Green Machine pedestrian road sweepers was recently placed as an exempt contract under the qualified informal procedure.

The corporate procurement standard procedure requires the tendering of the specification through the Procurement Partnership Ltd to obtain a number of competitive quotations which are then evaluated and awarded based on best value. The pedestrian sweepers are a very low sales item with these machines only being produced and supplied in the United Kingdom by one company, Green Machines in Falkirk, Scotland. The Transport Manager, Steve Fulton, commenced the procurement process for the sweepers and investigated various frame work agreements to see if anyone had an agreement with this company or if there were other similar machine available on the market but nothing suitable was found. Since these machines are of special character (no competition in the market) it was not possible to obtain 3 quotations for comparison.

Purchasing the vehicle as a 'one off' directly from the manufacturer therefore fell within the procedure for exempt contracts under contract procurement rule 3 as follows:

3.1 This procedure only applies to contracts where:

(iii) The goods, materials or works desired are of a proprietary or special character or for other reasons there would be no genuine competition; or

3.2 The procedure is that the relevant chief officer must be satisfied that the arrangements made secure the best available terms to the Council and must report the circumstances to the next available meeting of the appropriate Committee.

Approval for this direct purchase was sought from Tracy Morrison, Director of Resources, with responsibility for Operational Services. This was granted on the grounds that there was no competition in the market.

This report is therefore to inform the Operation Management Committee of the exempt contract purchase.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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