

Item 7

REPORT TO CABINET

Date 16th September 2004

REPORT OF STREET SCENE MANAGER

Environment Portfolio

USE OF CHILTON DEPOT BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE

1. SUMMARY

This report seeks approval to enter into partnership arrangements with Durham County Council on the use of the Borough's Chilton Depot as a base for their winter maintenance activities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet...

- 2.1 Authorises an agreement between the Borough and Durham CC for the use of Chilton Depot as a base of operations for winter maintenance and for storage of salt during the year.
- 2.2 Approves a negotiated annual charge of £4000 for the area occupied and a charge of £2500 for the cost of shared use of the loader on site.
- 2.3 Agree to adaptations to security and fencing to the value of approx. £3600 to be funded as a one-off cost by Durham CC.
- 2.4 Approve the partnership approach to develop interim protocols and quid pro quo arrangements to facilitate the overall agreement.

3. USE OF CHILTON DEPOT BY DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL FOR WINTER MAINTENANCE

3.1 Background

The central depot at Chilton has been used as a base for winter maintenance for a number of years. The Borough Council used to undertake this work under an agency arrangement, but from this (financial) year the Durham CC has taken back full highway responsibility for the provision.

There is approximately 1500 tonne of salt stored at Chilton Depot owned by Durham

CC, which was delivered (as is customary) early in the financial year when purchase price is more favourable.

3.2 Evaluation

For operational necessity Durham CC still require a base in the Chilton area to operate the winter maintenance gritting routes. The area being utilized has always been devoted to the storage and transfer of salt and will not impact upon the normal operation of the Depot beyond revisions to maintain security.

4. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Discussions have taken place between Officers of the Borough and County Council to develop formal proposals for the occupancy and use of the Depot by Durham County Council.

- 4.1 There will need to be immediate adaptations to the existing security fence, with separate access gates being installed. The existing perimeter fence alarm will be retained and adapted to the new perimeter line at the end of the car park as required. Lockable internal gates will be provided to allow access to the vehicle wash and operation of Council vehicles when necessary. The one-off costs of this work, in the region of £3600, will be met by Durham CC. (see attached plan)
- 4.2 An assessment of the occupancy space has been made by the Borough's Valuation & Corporate Property Services Manager who has determined that an annual rental of £4000 would be appropriate.
- 4.3 The Borough's Transport & Depot Manager has proposed a cost sharing arrangement on the Depot's telescopic loader which can be made available for use by Durham CC. At an agreed rate of £2500 p.a.
- 4.4 Any agreement will need to be formally constituted with provisions for annual review of charges. It is proposed that the agreement runs in line with the financial year and a single payment in March (for administrative economy) will be made on production of an invoice.
- 4.5 It should be noted that the income from this arrangement has not been budgeted for and constitutes a net financial benefit to the Depot's account of £6500 in the current financial year.

5. **CONSULTATIONS**

Not relevant, there being no material change in the manner and provision of the Council's service and its' operation from the Depot.

6. **OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 There will be a need to develop some interim working protocols as Durham CC wishes to operate from the depot with effect from 1st October 2004, which is the

traditional start of the winter season for this work. This does not present any problem short term, and temporary measures can be implemented at no cost to mitigate the additional security requirements that this could entail.

- 6.2 Other reciprocal agreements on a quid pro quo basis are proposed. For example, in exchange for works undertaken by Durham CC to the depot infrastructure in keeping drain and silt traps clear, the vehicle wash can be used for cleaning down their vehicles, and access by County staff to welfare and other facilities on site can be made.
- 6.3 Both formal and informal agreements will need to be appropriately documented.
- 6.4 There are some long-standing environmental concerns over the storage of the salt and leachate from the location. However this matter has been raised with Durham CC and there are investigations planned during the by-pass works which are adjacent to the location.

There are no adverse other material considerations beyond those stated.

7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no effects on the provision of Council services as a result of this proposal.

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Wards: All Wards in the Borough

Key Decision Validation: None.

Background Papers: None.

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>