

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

### Report by the Acting Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Land and Environment)

Tendering Committee: 19 December 2007

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**Subject: Tender for the Collection of Reusable Furniture.**

#### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** This report seeks Tendering Committee approval to utilise Council Standing Order 32.4 (c) (i) to negotiate with Home from Home to continue providing a reusable furniture collection and redistribution service in West Dunbartonshire.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1** The Community Recycling Network for Scotland (CRNS) has welcomed a recent study by the Furniture Re-use Network (FRN), which reports that over 10 million reusable items of furniture are sent to landfill by local authorities annually in the UK. CRNS has noted that in Scotland community based furniture projects re-use thousands of tonnes of furniture and appliances that would otherwise be disposed by landfill.
- 2.2** CRNS has reported that Home from Home, which is based in Broadmeadow Industrial Estate in Dumbarton, is the only known registered social enterprise organisation which collects donated reusable furniture from households within West Dunbartonshire
- 2.3** Home from Home exists to provide donated furniture at an affordable cost, or free in certain circumstances, to people on low income who wish to establish a home.
- 2.4** Home from Home influences three strategically important themes which complement the Councils aims and objectives.
- 1) Environmental benefit through waste diversion from landfill.
  - 2) Social benefit through services to disadvantaged communities.
  - 3) Local economic growth through employment, training and volunteering opportunities.

**2.5** Home from Home redistributes the equivalent of 500 tonnes of furniture per annum, thus diverting waste from landfill and contributing to the Councils waste reduction objectives. The Council, through the Waste and Transport Services Section budgets, has provided Home from Home with an income for the furniture diverted from landfill equivalent to the landfill disposal costs that the Council would otherwise have incurred, on a per tonne basis since 1996.

### **3. Main Issues**

**3.1** At the Council meeting held on 29 August 2007, Council approved amended Standing Orders which require the Council to tender contracts/agreements where the estimated expenditure is more than £30,000.

**3.2** The Home from Home project is therefore subject to the new Standing Orders, as the projected expenditure is more than the new expenditure limit. However, Standing Order 32.4 (c) (i), also states that:

*Subject to prior approval by the appropriate Committee a tender may be invited from a single or nominated contractor or the Council may negotiate with such a contractor where the seeking of such a tender or where such negotiation is considered desirable and in the best interests of the Council.*

**3.3** There are no other social enterprise organisations providing this type of service within West Dunbartonshire and if Home from Home did not exist it is likely that the Council would landfill an additional 500 tonnes of waste per annum.

**3.4** It is considered that it would be in the best interests of the Council to negotiate a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Home from Home, whereby a diversion payment, on a per tonne diverted basis, continues to be provided. The SLA would include incentives to induce Home from Home to improve standards of performance, thus diverting more waste from landfill, and be effective from 1 April 2008.

### **4. Personnel Issues**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues.

### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** The anticipated cost for the provision of these services is estimated at £55,000 per annum. It is proposed to award a contract, on a service level agreement basis, for a period of three years with an option to extend such an agreement for a further two years. The cost of the contract will be met from existing waste management and recycling budgets.

**6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** Failure to establish a formal contract arrangement for this service is regarded as a contributory risk to the achievement of future landfill diversion targets.

**7. Conclusions**

**7.1** The establishment of a Service Level Agreement between the Council and Home from Home would provide service continuation, improve standards and increase waste diversion from landfill.

**8. Recommendation**

**8.1** **The Committee is invited to approve the utilisation of Council Standing Order 32.4 (c) (i) and the implementation of an appropriate Service Level Agreement between the Council and Home from Home from 1 April 2008.**

**Ronald M Dinnie**

**Acting Executive Director of Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development (Land and Environmental)**

**Date: 11 December 2007**

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**Appendices:** Nil

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All Wards