

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 11 July, 2016**

### **Report of the Cabinet Member for Building Services, Highways and Transportation**

### **School Transport: Results of Tendering Exercise and Award of Contracts 2016**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Cabinet of the results of a tendering exercise in respect of 117 school transport contracts due for renewal in September 2016, and to seek authority to award appropriate contracts for an initial three year period with an option to extend the contracts by up to a further two years.

#### **Recommendation**

1. That Cabinet note the contents of the report, prior to taking a decision on the contract award via a corresponding Part II report featured later on this agenda.

#### **Reason for the Recommendation**

1. To ensure ongoing mainstream and additional learning needs school transport provision from September 2016 which the Council has a statutory / discretionary obligation to provide.

#### **Background**

2. The school transport tendering exercise was undertaken to ensure the continued operation of 117 school transport contracts.

#### **Relevant Issues and Options**

3. Officers have analysed the tender submissions, which were assessed in line with an agreed criteria. Bidders needed to achieve a minimum of 70% on the Pre-qualifying questionnaire and submit prices.
4. The tender was posted on the Sell2Wales website with bidders submitting tender documents electronically.
5. Contracts will be awarded initially for three years with an option to extend by up to a further 2 years.
6. For data protection reasons the details of the tender submissions are contained within the Part II report to this agenda.

## **Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)**

7. It is estimated that the award of contracts can be accommodated within the school transport budget for 2016/17. The £3.1m budget for 2016/17 includes a savings target of £320,000 via the retendering of school transport contracts.

## **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

8. School transport provision assists in sustainability and helps to reduce car use for the journey to school and helps to reduce traffic congestion, particularly at the school gate.

## **Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)**

9. The provision of school transport is a statutory obligation under current legislation based on mileage criteria of three miles for secondary pupils and two miles for primary pupils. Pupils with additional learning needs also have to meet the mileage criteria but dependent on their individual need the mileage criteria may be overlooked. Certain services also cater for fare paying school pupils and these services are registered as local bus services under the terms of the Transport Act 1985.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

10. These services will provide a safe environment for children to travel to and from school.

## **Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)**

11. The provision of a well organised school transport network helps to increase mobility and accessibility. All letters, passes and timetables are produced in Welsh and English.

## **Corporate/Service Objectives**

12. The provision of a reliable, efficient and value for money school transport network is in accord with the Well Being Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale and recognised by the Visible Service and Transport Plan 2016-2020. Action PVT1 within this plan states retender school transport services as part of an e-tender process with revised school transport contracts to commence September 2016. In addition Action CP1 recognises the need to deliver £320,000 worth of savings during 2016/2017 via retendering school transport services.

## **Policy Framework and Budget**

13. This report is within the corporate framework and budget and a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

## **Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)**

14. As this report affects all wards, individual members have not been consulted. The relevant schools and parents will be advised of new service providers before the start of the 2016/17 academic year.

## **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

15. Environment and Regeneration

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Contact Officer**

Kyle Phillips, Passenger Transport Manager

## **Officers Consulted**

Legal - Committee Reports

Visible Services and Transport Accountant

Procurement Officer

Head of Strategy, Community, Learning & Resources

## **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services