

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 12 December, 2016

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

School Transport: School Transport Services - Award of Contracts

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Cabinet of school transport contracts that have been allocated following the school transport e-tender process that was reported to Cabinet on 11th July 2016 (minute C3247 refers).

Recommendation

1. That the Cabinet note the contents of the report, with a view to taking decisions on the award of contracts detailed within the Part II report on the agenda.

Reason for the Recommendation

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

Background

2. The school transport e-tendering exercise was undertaken and approved by Cabinet on 11th July 2016 (minute C3247) to ensure the continued operation of one hundred and seventeen school transport contracts.
3. Following on from the e-tender, twenty seven mainstream and additional learning needs transport services have either been set up to cater for pupils who cannot be allocated to existing services and have a statutory right to free school transport or been allocated to a different operator due to "hand back" or contract termination.

Relevant Issues and Options

4. Officers have carried out a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process for fourteen contracts that needed to be set up.
5. Twelve contracts were re-allocated via the original e-tender and offered to the next successful operator.

6. Contracts will be awarded initially for three years with an option to extend up to a maximum of five years.
7. For data protection reasons the details of the tender submissions and Request for Quotations (RFQ's) are contained within the Part II report to this agenda.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

8. It is estimated that the award of contracts can be accommodated within the school transport budget for 2016/17.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

9. 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)

10. 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 disregarded.

Crime and Disorder Implications

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

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

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

Corporate/Service Objectives

13. The provision of a reliable, efficient and value for money school transport network is 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

14. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

15. As this report affects all wards, individual members have not been consulted. The relevant schools and parents have been informed of new or changed service providers.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

16. 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
Interim Director of Learning Skills

Responsible Officer:

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services