

## **The Vale of Glamorgan Council**

### **Cabinet Meeting: 6 February, 2017**

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

### **Supported Local Bus Services Results of Tender Process**

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

1. To inform Cabinet of the results of the tender exercise recently undertaken for a number of financially supported local bus services.

#### **Recommendation**

1. That the contents of the report be noted and be considered alongside the Part II report of the same title later in the agenda.

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

1. To inform Cabinet of the procurement arrangements.

#### **Background**

2. A number of local bus service contracts are due to expire at the end of operations on Sunday, 2nd April 2017. Without Cabinet approval to award contracts for these services they will cease and there will be no provision from Monday 3 April, 2017.
3. These bus service provisions are not commercially viable for operators to run without financial support from the Council.
4. The Council's supported local bus services budget and the Bus Service Support Grant (BSSG) that the Council receives from Welsh Government are used to fund this bus service provision.
5. The services concerned are either full bus services within their own right or they are additional services on pre-existing commercial operations, i.e. additional evening Sunday or bank holiday services.
6. The Timetables and route maps for the proposed service contracts are detailed in [Appendix A](#) to this report. Details of the current operators are as follows:
7. Bus Service 88 (Barry - Penarth via the Bendricks, Sully, Cosmeston and Penarth Pier) is currently supplied under contract by Harton Coaches and operates hourly

throughout the daytime, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays).

8. Bus Service 89A/89B (Dinas Powys / Llandough - Cardiff via Penarth, Penarth Marina, and Cardiff Bay) is currently supplied under contract by New Adventure Travel and operates 2 hourly for each service 89A and 89B providing an hourly service between Penarth Town Centre and Cardiff Bay throughout the daytime, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays).
9. Bus Service 90 (Barry Waterfront - Culverhouse Cross M&S/Tesco via Barry, Pencoedre Village and Wenvoe) is currently supplied under contract by Easyway and operates hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays).
10. Bus Service 100 (Barry local) is currently supplied under contract by Watts Coaches and operates hourly throughout the daytime and evening, Sundays and bank holidays (excluding Good Fridays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day).
11. Bus Service 320 (Cardiff - Talbot Green via St George's, St Brides-Super-Ely, Peterston-Super-Ely, Pendoylan, Hensol and Pontyclun) is currently supplied under contract by New Adventure Travel and generally operates 2 hourly throughout the daytime, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays). This bus service is linked with bus Service 321.
12. Bus Service 321 (Llantwit Major - Talbot Green via Pentre Cwrt, Cowbridge, Aberthin, Ystradowen and Pontyclun) is currently supplied under contract by New Adventure Travel and generally operates hourly throughout the daytime, Monday to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays).
13. Bus Service B3 (Barry local) is currently supplied under contract by Watts Coaches and operates hourly throughout the daytime, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays).
14. Bus Service 94/96 (Barry - Cardiff via Penarth / Wenvoe) ) is currently supplied under contract by Cardiff Bus and operates hourly throughout the evening, Mondays to Sundays (including bank holidays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day ). The Monday to Sunday daytime service provision is provided by Cardiff Bus on a commercial basis.
15. Bus Service 303/304 is currently supplied under contract by New Adventure Travel to provide various elements of this partially supported service i.e. (A) 2 hourly, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays between Bridgend and Cardiff; (B) 1 to 2 hourly, Monday to Saturday daytime and evenings between Bridgend and Llantwit Major; and (C) 1 to 2 hourly, Monday to Saturday evenings between Llantwit Major and Cardiff. The service is commercially provided by New Adventure Travel, hourly throughout the daytime, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays) between Llantwit Major and Cardiff.
16. Bus Service X2 (Porthcawl - Cardiff via Bridgend, Cowbridge, Bonvilston, St Nicholas and Culverhouse Cross) is currently supplied under contract by First Cymru to provide various elements of this partially supported service i.e. (A) 2 hourly, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays between Bridgend and Cardiff (not included in this tender); and (B) 2 late evening return journeys, Mondays to Saturdays (excluding bank holidays, except Good Fridays) between Bridgend and Cardiff. The bus service is commercially provided Monday to Saturday daytime and early evening between Porthcawl and Cardiff.

17. Service 905 (Cardiff Airport Rail Link - Rhoose Station) is currently supplied under contract by New Adventure Travel to link Cardiff Airport with all passenger rail journeys arriving and departing from Rhoose Station, Mondays to Sundays (including bank holidays, except 25-Dec and 26-Dec). The cost of this service is funded by the Welsh Government with an annual contribution of £15,000 by the Council. Welsh Government has agreed to continue funding this service with the Council's £15,000 annual contribution. The tender results of this service will be known after this report has been submitted and will be reported to Welsh Government.
18. Special bus Services C1, C2, C3 and C4 (Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show) are currently supplied by Watts Coaches (i.e. 1 operational day per annum). The service is procured on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Tourism Team to provide service provision to and from the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show ground from various parts of the Vale of Glamorgan (i.e. C1 Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and St Athan; C2 Barry; C3 Penarth and Dinas Powys; and C4 Rhoose Rail Station). The supply of service provision is agreed with Tourism and the operator annually depending on available budget.

### **Relevant Issues and Options**

19. The tender process for these services was carried out using the e-tender portal, Sell2Wales. Tenders had to be submitted by 12:00 (midday) on Thursday 12th January 2017. Potential suppliers were able to download/view service timetables and maps, a contract agreement document which outlined required service specification and standards. In addition they had to complete a tender submission form as well as upload relevant documentation (public liability insurance, employer liability insurance, motor insurance and PCV operator licences).
20. Tenders were evaluated based on 70% price and 30% quality. The 30% quality score took into account Traffic Commissioner public inquiries that the operator had been called to, the findings/outcome of such inquiries and actions taken to resolve any issues, early contract terminations (either by a procuring body or the operator), age of vehicles to be used on services and safety and security provided (including tracking and CCTV on vehicles). Tenders were submitted on a minimum subsidy basis whereby the operator retains all on board revenue.
21. The current Contract Agreements for supported local bus services together with the contracts proposed to be awarded from 3rd April 2017 are shown in detail within a Part II report later on this agenda. If the bus contracts are awarded as proposed all current bus services will be retained.
22. Contract Agreements for the bus services detailed in [Appendix A](#) will be for up to a maximum of 5 years from 3rd April 2017 with either party having the option to terminate with 90 days' notice.

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

23. The current combined annual cost of the service contracts identified (excluding C1 - C4 services and the 905 rail link service) are £700,002.27 and from 3rd April 2017 the combined annual cost of these bus services will be £714,437.00
24. The cost of these bus services (including £15,000 for the 905 rail link service) can be met in 2017/18 by the Council's Visible Services and Transport Supported Local Bus Service budget (£374,000 in the 16/17 financial year) and the 'Bus Services Support Grant' (BSSG) provided by the Welsh Government (£363,809 in 16/17 financial year) and a specific service grant provided by the Welsh Government for the Cardiff Airport

Rail Link Service 905. The cost of C1 - C4 services will be met annually, as required, by the Tourism Department.

25. Should funding not be available from these sources in future years, the Contract Agreements can be terminated at any time throughout the Contract's term with either party giving 90 days' notice.
26. If operators do not agree to undertake the services awarded to them contracts will need to be awarded to the next in line and so on. A delegation has been requested to cover this potential problem to ensure bus service continuity, subject to sufficient funding being available.
27. Depending on which company is successful there may be Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) that could apply. This will be dealt with on an operator to operator basis, with no involvement required by the Council.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

28. Public Transport can reduce the number of private vehicles on the road and therefore reduce carbon emissions which can damage the environment.
29. Increasing and improving the public transport network in the Vale of Glamorgan can lead to greater usage of bus services and thus enhance the sustainability of such services.

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

30. The provision of supported local bus services is provided pursuant to the Transport Acts 1985, 2000 and Transport (Wales) Act 2006. It is discretionary and the Council can defend any provision, or the lack of it, on the grounds of availability and targeting resources.
31. Contracted service providers are required to adhere to current and applicable employment, equal opportunities and modern day slavery legislation throughout the term of the Contract Agreement.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

32. Public transport assists in the provision of a safe way for the population to travel throughout the Vale of Glamorgan and beyond.

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

33. These services can be used by all persons no matter of gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, beliefs or language and thus providing equal access to employment opportunities, services and facilities within the community.
34. Welsh residents who meet the age (60yrs plus) or certain disability criteria and are in possession of a free Welsh concessionary bus pass would be entitled to free travel on all these services under the existing Vale of Glamorgan Concessionary fare scheme.
35. The specifications of all vehicles to be provided under the terms of these Contracts must be compliant with 'Equality Act 2010' requirements.

### **Corporate/Service Objectives**

36. The relevant Wellbeing Outcome from the Corporate Plan is number 2: an environmentally responsible and prosperous wales, objective 4, promoting

sustainable development and protecting our environment. The Visible Services and Transport Service Plan, ER9 (Page 23) states "review all supported local bus services" including tendering and awarding new routes.

### **Policy Framework and Budget**

37. This report is within the policy framework and budget and a matter for executive decision by Cabinet.

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

38. There is no statutory requirement for consultation regarding the provision of public transport.

39. No members have been advised of this report to date.

### **Relevant Scrutiny Committee**

40. Environment and Regeneration

### **Background Papers**

[Appendix A](#) - Service timetables and route maps to be implemented from 3/4/17

### **Contact Officer**

Kyle Phillips - Passenger Transport Manager

### **Officers Consulted**

Accountant (Environment and Housing Services Procurement Officer  
Committee Services  
Events Officer

### **Responsible Officer:**

Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services