

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

19 JULY 2012

SUBJECT:	CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR ADULT TRANSPORT PROVISION
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR TONY SMITH
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Wirral Council transports vulnerable adults to day centres, placements and educational provision. The transportation is provided through an in-house fleet, contracted services from external transport providers and additional commissioned transport as required. This report seeks approval to extend twelve adult transport contracts for a further year from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013 at an estimated cost of £563,113.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Wirral Council transports vulnerable adults to day centres, placements and educational provision. The transportation is provided through an in-house fleet and contracted services from external transport providers. For transport of adults procurement of external contracts is in two phases, one set which also includes routes for home to school transport for children, and a second set of twelve routes for adult transport only. In addition to contracts further transport for adults is commissioned as required for very vulnerable adults, for journeys where no existing routes are available or where there is no capacity on the in house or contracted vehicles.
- 2.2 In June 2011 Cabinet agreed the award of the twelve transport contracts to external transport companies for the transport of vulnerable adults. The agreed contracts were set up for a one year period from 1 August 2011 to 31 July 2012 with an optional one year extension. The one year initial time period was to allow an assessment of the operation of the contracts and to allow consideration of any changes in demand for the service that may arise as a result of policy changes, personalisation and self directed support.
- 2.3 The operation of the contracts has been monitored with only minimal issues reported which have all been dealt with appropriately. The number of adults requiring transport has been monitored. At the start of 2012-13 there has been a slight reduction in the number of required journeys compared to 2011-12. This has resulted in the reduction of some of the additional commissioned journeys however both the in-house fleet and the contracted transport remain at capacity. As a result there remains a requirement for the twelve contracts.

- 2.2 The extension for a further year will align the termination of these contracts to that of the larger transport contract which transports children thus giving an option to consolidate routes and maximise efficiency in any procurement of new contracts from July 2013.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 Failure to continue the contracts will result in insufficient transport availability for the transport of vulnerable adults.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No other options considered. The current in-house fleet and other contracted transport is operating to maximum capacity.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No consultation was carried out.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 In July 2011 Cabinet provided an additional £340,000 to assist with re-provision to cover the cost of the new contracts. This extension for £563,113 is funded from this budget, giving a total adult contract budget of £832,400.

- 7.2 In 2011-12 the adult transport budget overspent by approximately £500,000. This is mainly related to operation of the in house fleet, additional transport costs and a proportion of a re-engineering saving of £43,000.

- 7.3 The Transport budget of £8.4 million remains under intense scrutiny with a range of activity underway to reduce spend and overall there is an anticipated shortfall of £1.2 million. The budgets are not sufficient to cover costs in a number of areas. The only way to significantly impact on this structural deficit is to review transport policy and remove discretionary transport provision for children and young people and reduce the numbers of adults eligible for free transport.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 If agreed the Council will be renewing a contract for purchase of transport.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

- (a) An existing equality impact assessment: Passenger Transport can be found via the following link and at the end of this report:

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Council's commitment to Carbon reduction is emphasised in the tender specification and the environmental policies of organisations submitting tenders were requested during the process.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That Cabinet approve the extension of the current contract for a further year from 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To ensure the provision of transport for vulnerable adults.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	23rd June 2011

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Nancy Clarkson

Email address: nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Nancy Clarkson

Chief Officer: David Armstrong

Department: Children and Young People's Department

Date: 21 June 2012

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Contract extension for adult transport provision

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes / No

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Cabinet 19th July 2012

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ **Services**
- The workforce**
- ✓ **Communities**
- ✓ **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

Community transport providers

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- ✓ Advances equality of opportunity
- Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Disability	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The service provides transport services for people with specific needs which may be otherwise unavailable to them.2. The service employs licensed, trained contractors to ensure appropriate provision.3. Attendant services are provided to support people using transport services.4. The service supports social inclusion for disabled people.				
Age	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The service provides transport services for people with specific needs which may be otherwise unavailable to them.				

	<p>3. The service employs licensed, trained contractors to ensure appropriate provision.</p> <p>2. Attendant services are provided to support people using transport services.</p> <p>3. The service supports social inclusion for older, vulnerable and less mobile people.</p>				

Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

n/a

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The service provides transport for vulnerable adults.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Equality information.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

No – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

Consultation will be carried out if the Council considers reviewing the currently provided transport provision.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- b) **Send this EIA to your Head of Service for approval.**
- c) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to your Head of Service for approval then to your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**