

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

7TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT:	PROVISION OF CHILDREN AND ADULT TRANSPORT SERVICES
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR TONY SMITH (CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES)
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Wirral Council transports children from home to school and vulnerable adults from home to day centres, placements and educational provision. The transportation is provided through contracted services from external transport providers, an in-house fleet and additional commissioned transport as required. Current external contracts are due to expire in summer 2014 and new contracts are required in order to fulfil the transport requirements for eligible students and adults based on Wirral Council transport policies. This report seeks approval to award new transport contracts.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Constitution (Standing Order 35) the Cabinet is requested to waive call-in as the decision required to be taken in respect of this matter is considered urgent as the delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's and the public's interest given that the existing contracts are due to expire in summer 2014. The Chief Executive has confirmed that if Cabinet agrees to waive call-in, the decision is reasonable in the circumstances and should be treated as a matter of urgency.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Wirral Council currently has two transport contracts, one contract comprises of transport for children and adults and one contract for supplementary adult transport. Children's contracts expire at the end of the school term July 2014 and adult contracts expire at the end of August 2014. A new contract is required to fulfil the Council's transport requirements from September 2014 as agreed by Cabinet Member 20th February 2014.
- 2.2 In July 2013 Wirral Council Cabinet approved new home to school transport policies for students aged 5-15 and Post 16 provision. These policies commence in September 2014. Alongside the introduction of the new policies an Independent Travel Training (ITT) programme is being introduced in order to enhance young people with SEND travel confidence helping to support them to become independent through providing valuable life skills.

- 2.3 Budget savings are in place in both children's and adults transport areas. £2.25 million is proposed in savings over the next 6 years. Changes in demand for transport are routinely monitored and the new contract has been designed to allow flexibility in order to efficiently manage changes in demand over the life of the contract. Legal advice has been taken on the new contract design.
- 2.4 The procurement exercise was carried out through the Council's procurement system. There are 211 separate routes that have been subject to the tendering exercise. Procurement advice was taken regarding contract length; a one year contract (1 September 2014 to 31 August 2015) with an optional extension of one year is proposed.
- 2.5 Analysis of tender submissions were weighted in accordance with agreed criteria with regards to price (80%) and quality (20%) which incorporated service delivery standards, sensitivity to users and staff training and qualifications.
- 2.6 The award of the contracts will be subject to the European Court of Justice 'Alcatel' ruling, which allows tenderers the provision to challenge the award of contract. In effect when the contracts are agreed there will be a 10 day 'standstill' period.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The tendering process including a Pre-Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) approach has been utilised to reduce risks associated with delivery of the contracts.
- 3.2 The contract costs published in this report are based on the recommended award of contracts. All contracts are subject to acceptance by the winning contractors.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 No other options are considered at this time as the Council provides this transport on the basis of agreed policies.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 No consultation was undertaken regarding transport contracts.

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 The proposed contract award is £3,653,494 (one year operation); £2,856,735 for SEND transport and £796,759 for adult transport. This compares with a contract budget provision of £4,031,600 and is a reduction of £378,106 as shown in the table below:

	Contract Budget £	Contract Cost £	Difference £
CYP	3,448,300	2,856,735	
DASS	783,300	796,759	
Less: Additional provision	200,000cr		
Total	4,031,600	3,653,494	378,106cr

7.2 The reduction in contract costs against the budget will meet part of the agreed transport savings in 2014-15 which are:

CYP £524,700 (academic year)
DASS £250,000 (financial year)

It is anticipated that other savings will be made during the year related to demand management including independent travel training for SEND students, reduced fleet costs and a range of DASS initiatives.

7.3 The award of contracts will be subject to acceptance by the contractors.

7.4 The contract allows for route reduction as required which reflects the introduction of new home to school and college transport policies.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Council has undertaken a procurement tendering exercise consistent with its Contract Procedure Rules.

8.2 The Council will enter into legally binding contracts with each successfully tender in relation to transport services to be provided.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

(a) Yes and impact review can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-families-wellbeing>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Council's commitment to carbon reduction is emphasised in the tender specification and the environmental impact of the companies are requested in the tender documentation.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no planning and community safety implications arising from this report.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 12.1 In accordance with Contract Procedure Rules, Cabinet agrees that contracts for the transportation service outlined in the report be awarded to the most economically advantageous tender for each contract.
- 12.2 Cabinet agrees that its decision to award the transportation services contracts (at 12.1) is urgent (for the reasons set out at paragraph 1.2 of this report) and not therefore subject to call in.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 13.1 To ensure transport for students and vulnerable adults is maintained as required.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Delegated Authority	20 February 2014
Cabinet	11 July 2013
Cabinet	14 March 2013
Cabinet	19 July 2012