

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	9 March 2023
Subject:	Extension of Park and Ride Bus Contract		
Report of:	Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)	Wards Affected:	Dukes, Cambridge
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes.
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek a six-month extension to the contract for the provision of the bus service for the Park and Ride operation in Southport and authority to procure a new contract for operation of the Park and Ride bus service from the expiry date of the extended contract.

Recommendation:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection), to enter into a six-month extension to the contract for the provision of the bus service for the Park and Ride operation in Southport.
2. Authorise the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection), to commence procurement of a new contract to operate the Park and Ride bus service from the expiry date of the above extended contract.
3. Authorise the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection), in consultation with the Cabinet Member Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, to award a contract for a period of five years to the highest scoring Tenderer in the above procurement process.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure continued provision of the service until the tender exercise can be completed, and to secure a new contract once that exercise is completed.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: Consideration was given to not extending the contract. This was rejected as this is not considered to be the best value option for the Council, for the reasons set out in the report.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost of the contract will be met from the existing budget within the service.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital cost implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): There are no Financial, IT, staffing, or asset resource implications other than the cost of the contract extension which will be met from the existing budget within the service.	
Legal Implications: Procurement Regulatory Framework and Contract Procedure Rules	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
Extension of the contract will ensure on-going provision of the out of town-centre Park and Ride provision and will maintain the reduction of congestion and consequently maintain the reduction of emissions in the town centre.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Provision of a Park and Ride facility provides an accessible alternative to busy town centre parking and helps to reduce congestion, contributing to how safe and happy residents and visitors feel when living in or visiting Southport.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Provision of a Park and Ride facility helps to reduce congestion within the town centre, supporting an environment in which people feel safer and more confident to go out or use facilities.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Provision of a Park and Ride facility

provides an alternative to vehicles entering the town centre, helps to reduce congestion and assists delivery of the Council's statutory duty to take steps to maintain traffic movements, prevent road traffic collisions and assist road users.

Place – leadership and influencer: Provision of a Park and Ride facility provides an alternative to vehicles entering the town centre, helps to reduce congestion, and also enables users to visit both the town centre and the seafront area more readily.

Drivers of change and reform: Provision of a Park and Ride facility provides an accessible alternative to busy town centre parking and encourages people to use public transport into the town centre.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Provision of a Park and Ride facility helps to reduce congestion, assists in maintaining traffic movements, helps to maintain safe access within the town centre, and enables users to visit both the town centre and the seafront area more readily.

Greater income for social investment: Consideration will be given to maximising added social value from the delivery of the newly procured contract.

Cleaner Greener: Maintaining the option of an out of town-centre Park and Ride facility helps to reduce congestion and will contribute to maintaining a cleaner, greener Sefton

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7139/23.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5339/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

With the current service provider

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Contact Officer:	Dave Marrin
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4295
Email Address:	dave.marrin@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The contract for the provision of a Park & Ride Bus Service in Southport is due to terminate on the 31st July 2023 and officers in Highways & Public Protection have been discussing the process for retendering the contract with the Council's Procurement Service.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, officers have regularly monitored contract performance and are satisfied that the contractor has performed well throughout the period of contract.
- 1.3 Procurement Services have indicated that there is an opportunity to extend the contract for a period of up to six months, and the current Contractor has indicated a willingness to continue to deliver the contract in line with the current contract terms. This would provide the Council with improved price certainty for the delivery of the current service, at a time of rapidly increasing costs, and thereby assist effective budget management over the next 12 months.
- 1.4 Extending the Contract would also allow Officers and the Cabinet Member to further consider the design of the service, prior to committing to a longer-term contract, and enable re-alignment of the new contract commencement date, outside the peak visitor season.
- 1.5 Officers are satisfied that extending the Contract for 6 months would continue to offer best value to the Council over this period, when considering the combination of cost, quality and efficiency that the contract, current contractor, and proposed approach provides.
- 1.6 It therefore proposed to extend the current contract for a period of six months from 1st August 2023.
- 1.7 Over this time period, A Public Contract Regulations compliant procurement process will be carried out in order to secure a replacement contract from the extended termination date for a period of five years. The evaluation criteria to be agreed with the Cabinet Member Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.