

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	5 December 2019
Subject:	Hired Passenger Transport Framework Agreement 2020/21		
Report of:	Head of Communities	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Safeguarding		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

That the Head of Communities be authorised to grant the two one-year extensions (2020 & 2021) to the existing Framework Agreement for Hired Passenger Transport service, which had previously been tendered in accordance with OJEU regulations and the Council's procurement regulations as described in the Cabinet report of 6th April 2017.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Authorise the Head of Service – Communities to extend the existing 2018/20 Framework Agreement for two further one-year extensions.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The current framework agreement is made up of 15 hired passenger transport companies, in 4 lots, divided up into vehicle seating capacity. The core period will expire on 31st December 2019.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None. Based upon the level of requests from commissioning departments there is currently an ongoing need for the Council to provide transport to some service users. As such, this procurement exercise and the subsequent establishment of a Framework Agreement provides the Council with the opportunity to procure services at the most economically advantageous rates, whilst also meeting the stringent Health and Safety and Safeguarding issues associated with transporting vulnerable adults and children.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report. This framework agreement establishes a list of approved suppliers, together with their tendered unit costs, from which, future transport contract bids for routes are measured, or individual transport is commissioned.

The Council currently budgets and spends around £8.5m on Transport for vulnerable adults and children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities. The use of the framework agreement will help to ensure value for money is maintained during the award of future contracts.

(B) Capital Costs

N/A

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): Not applicable
Legal Implications: Not applicable
Equality Implications: Not applicable

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: This framework is in place to allow the procurement of home to school transport and home to day care transport for the most vulnerable members of the public.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: This extension to the existing Framework is required to enable the Travel Support Team to continue commissioning this transport.
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5854/19) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4088/19) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

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

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction

Specialist Transport has recently been restructured as part of Public Sector Reform and is now included within the newly established Travel Support Team. This team supports the delivery of all aspects of the Council's Home to School Travel Support Policy. It is recognised that there is scope to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of this service area and the restructure of the team was the first step in this process. The team are now looking to improve a number of areas including procurement but at this stage the current framework is fit for purpose. An extension of 2 years allows the team time to analyse and understand cost drivers, develop a better understanding of the market place and the service that we require and develop a new contract to improve our procurement in line with our policy.

Background

The Sefton Travel Support Team commissions transport for over 1,150 vulnerable children and adults travelling to more than 85 different Schools, Colleges and Day Centres. It also provides journeys for these service users to and from respite centres enabling short-break respite for families and carers. In addition, the team supports Children's Social Care providing transport to enable access to contact meetings with family members, respite breaks and home to school transport.

The Hired Passenger Transport Framework Agreement established an approved supplier list and a pricing structure for two years with the option to extend for two years. It reaches the end of the first two years in December 2019.

Extending the framework will allow the Travel Support Team to continue to use the established Approved Supplier List of suitable service providers. This enables the Council to award contracts directly by using the pricing structure established within the framework, to ensure best value without the need to run competitions. This is most frequently used for low cost trips.

Mini-competitions using the Approved Supplier List are used to ensure best value for more expensive routes, such as 16 seat minibuses with multiple passenger assistants to provide support for service users with a higher level of need.

Performance of each route is reviewed throughout the year and considered individually before an extension to any of the 390 routes is offered. Key performance considerations are: punctuality, readiness for students to learn, and also factors in feedback from schools and parents.