



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's Services and Education
DATE:	28th February 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Schools and Education
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
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SUBJECT	Award of contracts for Home to School Transport April 2022 – April 2025.
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY To seek approval from the Executive Member for Schools and Education to award to successful providers who have submitted tenders through a further competition using the Councils DPS framework established in May 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for School and Education approves:

The award of tenders for the provision of Home to School transport commencing 19th April 2022 for a three year period.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council previously established a DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) in 2018. A DPS framework unlike a traditional one allows suppliers to join the framework at any stage whilst the framework is live, this ensured that as many suppliers as possible could qualify to participate in the framework in order to ensure competition.

The Councils existing contracts are due to expire on the 19th April 2022 and in order to ensure continuity of these services the Council has run a sealed bid process for the continued provision of the services. The newly tendered services are based on providing Home to School transport from the 19th April 2022 until 19th April 2025.

A total of 16 routes were tendered which were divided into 5 separate tender processes over 3 days with bids being submitted by 6 different companies and the routes being awarded to the lowest bid, this resulted in the following contracts being proposed to be awarded;

Coach Travel Solutions – 15 routes

Blackburn and Darwen Community Transport – 1 route.

4. KEY ISSUES

If contracts on are not awarded then the Authority would be at increased risk of being in breach of its statutory responsibility to provide transport for children and young people.

There is a risk to the authority if Coach Travel Solutions went into administration as they have won 15 of the routes, this risk however already existed prior to the new tender with them already holding 11 of the routes.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A continuation of service is required in order to meet the required statutory obligation of providing Home to School Transport.

Education and Inspections Act 2006.
508B and 508C Education Act 1996.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Following a tender exercise based on the lowest price tender, the lowest price is now likely to be £425,690 and can be funded from within existing budgets.

Due to the current economic climate and the fact the routes have been awarded for a 3 year period the contracts are subject to an annual review. Where the supplier can evidence change in costs underlying the pricing then they can apply for an increase which will be capped in the relative change of the Retail Prices Index – All Items Excluding Mortgage Interest (RPIX) over the relevant period.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The procurement process used under the DPS framework complies with the requirements of the Council's Contract and Procurement rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications associated with this decision.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

None with this report, as it is replacing a like for like service.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Jackie Clarkson
DATE:	28/02/2022
BACKGROUND PAPER:	