



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's Services and Education
DATE:	30th March 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Schools and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

SUBJECT: Award of contracts for Special Needs and Disability Transport April 2022 – April 2024.

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 October 2019.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:
Approves the award of tenders for the provision of Special Needs and Disability transport commencing 19th April 2022 for a two year period.

3. BACKGROUND

The Council previously established a DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System) in 2019. 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. This has resulted in 50 different suppliers and sole traders being able to join the framework.

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 further competition under the framework utilising an electronic auction process in which bidders bid against each other on the individual contracts with the lowest bidder at the end of the auction winning that route.

A total of 109 routes were tendered which were divided into 10 separate auction processes split into routes for saloons, hackney carriages, MPV's, wheelchair accessible minibuses and standard minibuses. This resulted in the following total number of contracts being proposed to be awarded;

Provider	Total contracts
Owner Operators	12
Matrix Private Hire	14
Silverline Blackburn Ltd	5
Mill Hill Private Hire	8

UK Private hire	9
Intack & Central Private Hire	13
Blackburn & Darwen Community Transport Limited	31
Brownhill Corporate Hire	14
Total	106

Three of the contracts that were tendered could not be awarded due to a lack of bids and will be awarded through rate cards that are provided by operators.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

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.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

A continuation of service is required in order to meet the required statutory obligation of providing Special Educational and Disability Transport.

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

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current cost of routes forecasted within this tender is £1,556,361 per annum and this is in line with previous year's expenditure. This may increase slightly if an operator is unable to source enough vehicles to provide the routes that have been won in which case the route will be awarded to the next lowest bidder.

Given the timing of the procurement exercise with the current impact on fuel prices in order to mitigate risks for the Council and suppliers a mechanism for pricing adjustments has been built into the process. The fuel price at the time of issuing the tender exercise was benchmarked at £1.56 and where the price of unleaded goes above / below these rates the Council will make the following adjustment;

For each 15p per litre that the cost of unleaded goes above / below the pricing the Council will add or deduct 3.33% to the costs of the contract. This will occur on a monthly basis with the Council looking at the price of fuel on the last day of the month and then applying the adjustment for the contracts delivered that month.

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.

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CONTACT OFFICER:	Peter Hughes, Jackie Clarkson
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DATE:	30/03/2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	None
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