

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE

DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION



BLACKBURN
with
DARWEN
BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED OFFICER	Acting Director Children's Services and Education
DECISION TAKEN BY:	Council (date of delegation)
DELEGATED BY:	Chief Officer
IN CONSULTATION WITH:	Schools & Education
PORTFOLIO AREA:	

SUBJECT: Award of contracts for home to school transport

1. DECISION

In consultation with the Director of Finance to award to successful providers who have submitted tenders for Home to School transport with the associated budget adjustments.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

A competitive tender exercise was advertised through the Chest portal and on the government's contract finder website for a replacement operator for these routes. In this tender exercise operators only bid against 3 of these routes and therefore the tender had to be re-run for the remaining route for which we managed to secure a bid during the second run. Due to the relative short notice for these contracts and that they would be starting part way through a term these are only being let until the 21st July. These contracts will be awarded to the lowest bidders as follows;

Route Company being awarded
10/70 BPH coaches
10/84 Cranberry Coaches
10/95 Moving People
10/975 Red Rose Travel

3. BACKGROUND

Due to one of the Councils current operators being at risk of losing some operator licences it was mutually agreed that four of the existing contracts would be handed back to the Council on the 30th January 2023.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

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

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The retendering of the 4 routes saw an increase in price compared to what is currently paid. The additional cost implication of these contracts for the period 30th January to 21st July is £39,828. A budget variation is therefore required as below;

2022/23 - £15,619

2023/24 - £24,209

As previously mentioned it is likely that when these contracts are let for the period up until Easter 2025 a further budget increase will be required.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The procurement process used to tender these contracts and the creation of the new DPS framework complies with the requirements of the Council's Contract and Procurement rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

This item is not for call in accordance with rule 15 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the constitution as the delay is likely to prejudice the Councils and public's interest by not being able to provide a statutory service to the schools until the call-in period is over. The requirements stated in Rule 15 have been complied with.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications associated with this decision.

8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The department could have waited to see if the existing company could have managed to source alternative arrangements themselves, due to the risk to the authority of not being able to provide a statutory service this was rejected.

Further information is available from the report author

9. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION:	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Peter Hughes, peter.hughes@blackburn.gov.uk,
DATE:	25/01/2023
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	None

Signed:

**Director Acting Director Children's Services
and Education**

Date:

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.

11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION: 1

CONTACT OFFICER: Peter Hughes

DATE: 25/01/2023

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None

DIRECTORS - has legal and finance advice been considered ?

YES

NO