



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Growth and Development
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Growth and Development
DATE:	27 October 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Growth and Development
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
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SUBJECT: Revised strategy for procurement of maintenance for real time bus information displays
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To seek approval to amend the previously approved strategy for the procurement for a replacement provider to supply maintenance and software for real time bus information displays

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

Approves the revised procurement strategy for a new provider for real time bus information displays through an open tender process for 1 year with the option to extend for a further 3 number 1 year periods.

3. BACKGROUND

The Executive Member for Growth and Development previously approved the procurement for the maintenance of the existing real time displays including the provision of an additional 70 screens for Lancashire County Council for a 3 year period with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

Following this decision LCC have identified further potential funding to expand the current system and are therefore considering to tender for a complete new system in the new year if the funding is secured. With this new information it has been decided to withdraw the requirement for the 70 new screens from the proposed tender, the tender duration will also be shortened to a 1 year contract with the option to extend for a further 3 years to enable LCC to still access the maintenance if required but have the option to migrate their displays to their new contract.

The original decision approved the procurement strategy as detailed below, although some of the requirements have changed the strategy approved will not change;

An evaluation of existing frameworks was carried out with only one potential framework being identified which was the Crown Commercial Services transport technology & associated services framework. Whilst this framework would be able to meet the tender requirements for both local authorities, the current provider to the Council (Journeo) was not a supplier under this lot. As Journeo already have the infrastructure and systems in place under the current contract, there is the potential that they could be able to offer better pricing for the requirements and therefore it is in both local authorities best interests that Journeo are able to bid.

The department are therefore recommending that the requirement is advertised as an open tender process to all suppliers through the Governments find a tender service. The tender will be evaluated in accordance with the following weightings;

Social Value – 15%
Price – 50%
Quality – 35%

The use of real time information is very popular with bus users as they can see instantly when arriving at a bus stop if a bus is due, on time or even cancelled. In particular, the elderly who struggle to read paper timetables. Real time data is also transferable to mobile application which are very popular with the younger element of bus users.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

If no contract is in place, the existing equipment wouldn't be maintained and would ultimately lead to blank displays and the discontinuation of the system. The removal of failed equipment would require extra revenue.

The existing system has become a well-established and relied upon source of information for bus passengers, bus operators and other parties who disseminate the information. It would be difficult and expensive to recreate the current system in future years.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The provision of real time bus information is a necessary part of providing good transport links to the town centre. The displays provide a vital role in encouraging people to use buses and will provide an on-going role in supporting bus operators and passengers over the coming years.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current cost of support and maintenance for the solution is split fairly evenly between the two authorities with a small contribution from Transdev Rawtenstall who use the system to make changes to their screens.

The current annual costs are £76k per annum

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The procurement process complies with the regulations of the Council's Contract and Procurement rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015. All contracts and contract variations will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no internal resource implications 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

Consultations have taken place with LCC with regards to the procurement.

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:	Peter Hughes
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DATE:	15/09/2023
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Executive Member Decision 02/06/2023 – Procurement and maintenance of real time bus information.
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