

**RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER
DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM
EXECUTIVE/COUNCIL/COMMITTEE
DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN
THE CONSTITUTION**



DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION TAKEN BY:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DELEGATED BY:	Council (date of delegation)
IN CONSULTATION WITH:	Executive Member
PORTFOLIO AREA:	Growth and Development

SUBJECT: Award of contract for maintenance on real time bus information displays

1. DECISION

To award the contract for maintenance on real time bus information displays to Journeo Passenger Systems limited for a one-year period with the option to extend for a further three number one-year periods.

2. REASON FOR DECISION

The Executive Member for Growth and Development previously approved the procurement of the maintenance on real time bus information displays, 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.

In accordance with the approved strategy an open tender process was carried with any supplier being able to bid for the opportunity. Only one tender response was received for the opportunity, this was however anticipated due to the current displays being manufactured by the incumbent supplier and therefore it would be difficult for any new supplier to maintain these or be cost effective to replace.

The tender had a minimum threshold for the quality element of 50% of the available marks, with bidders having to score a minimum of 17.5 out of 35 marks for quality, Journeo achieved a much higher score for quality as per the tender scores awarded below:

Area	Score Available	Score Awarded
Price	50	50
Quality	35	29.25
Social Value	15	5.4
Total	100	84.65

The new contract will see only a small increase in costs of below RPIX but will also deliver additional social value benefits as part of the contract.

3. BACKGROUND

As part of the successful joint Pennine Reach bid with Lancashire County Council (LCC) in 2014 and subsequent development of bus corridors and bus stations (Blackburn & Accrington), real time information screens were installed at the gates of those bus stations, as well as summary screens within the bus stations. A number of real time screens were also installed at key locations along the primary Pennine Reach Corridors in Accrington, Blackburn, Darwen, Rishton, Great Harwood and Oswaldtwistle. At present there a total of 83 screens across the network.

Real-time displays work by accessing a device on the bus which reports their position to a central system. The system then estimates how long the bus will take to reach all bus stops along the route. These screens show the arrival times of the next bus by counting down the minutes until the bus arrives at the stop.

4. KEY ISSUES AND 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. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The pricing for year one of the contract is £78,767.88 which represents an increase in costs of less than a £3k per annum since the previous renewal.

The £78,767.88 cost of support and maintenance for the real time bus information displays is split fairly evenly between the two local authorities with a small contribution from Transdev Rawtenstall who use the system to make changes to their screens.

The Environment and Operations Department currently holds a budget of £48k for the cost of the maintenance. Over the years, additional screens have been added to the existing contract which included the maintenance element over a set number of years. As these additional screens have come out of their initial maintenance support period, they have been added to the main maintenance contract. The additional costs for the new contract have been absorbed by the Department and no request is being made for any revenue budget increase.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The procurement process used 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.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None with this report.

8. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

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 was the potential that they would be able to offer better pricing for the requirements and therefore it was in the best interests of both local authorities that Journeo were able to bid.

9. CONSULTATIONS

Consultations have taken place with Lancashire County Council with regards to the award.

10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Peter Hughes
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DATE:	12/12/2023
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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	Executive Member Decision - Revised strategy for procurement of maintenance for real time bus information displays. 27 th October 2023
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