

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>National Bus Strategy – award of consultancy support contract</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	8 June 2021
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Acting Assistant Director Highways and Transport
<b>Authority delegated decision: for</b>	Contract procedure rules section 6 – authority to award contracts.  Economy & Place Scheme of Delegation updated 28/04/2021 Transport and Access Line 78 – Award of contracts for future passenger transport services tendered
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	The following departments have reviewed this report:  Legal services Commercial services Finance  A <a href="#">key decision report</a> and political groups consultation have been circulated to key stakeholders setting out the intended approach to be taken to progress the National Bus Strategy locally
<b>Decision made:</b>	Award contract NBSHC211 to Integrated Transport Planning Ltd for a 1 year term commencing 7 June 2021 at a cost of £92,330. With the option of a 10 month extension at the councils discretion at a further cost of up to £31,700k.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>On 15 March 2021 the Department for Transport (DfT) published <a href="#">Bus back better: National bus strategy for England</a>.</p> <p>The National Bus Strategy (NBS) sets out government's vision for improving bus services across the country covering both recovery from Covid-19 and longer terms aspirations to reverse the trend in decreasing patronage. The NBS provides clear direction that government expects local transport authorities to work in partnership with their local bus operators to develop plans for service improvement and longer term investment. It has identified the need for a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) to be published by the end of October 2021 and the establishment of Enhanced Partnership agreements with bus operators from April 2022.</p> <p>The NBS makes it clear that future central government funding for local bus services will be dependent on Local Transport Authorities (LTAs) committing to establishing an EP and government funding provided directly to operators will be dependent on each of them signing up to an EP.</p> <p>The development of a BSIP and establishment of an EP is consistent with Cabinet's recent decision confirming its preferred transport strategy.</p> <p>DfT has provided £100k to the council in the form of a capacity grant to progress the work required to deliver a BSIP and EP. This funding will be used to cover the full costs of contract NBSHC211 with the 10 month extension being dependent on further funding being received from DfT.</p>

<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>There are no financial risks to this decision as the full cost of the contract is to be covered by DfT grant funding.</p> <p>The procurement process has been progressed with support from commercial services and has been completed in accordance with the councils contract procedure rules. A single stage open tender procurement process was followed using the councils procurement portal Procontract. Eight compliant bids were received with the contract being awarded on a combination of quality and price criteria to the highest scoring bidder.</p>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	Not to award this contract. This was rejected as this would also mean that the council could not progress the requirements set out in the NBS. This would result in the council losing access to central Government funding that supports bus services in the County.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed

Mairead Lane  
Acting Assistant Director Highways & Transport

Date: 8 June 2021