

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of transport contracts (Ref 0521)
Date of decision:	25 June 2021
Decision maker:	Acting Assistant Director Highways and Transport
Authority delegated decision:	Economy & Place Scheme of Delegation updated 28 April 2021 Transport and Access Line 78 – Award of contracts for future passenger transport services tendered
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	Members were consulted during the Passenger Transport Review reported to Cabinet in April 2017 which set out the approach to the provision of services for public, education and special needs transport. The contents of this report have been reviewed by: Finance Legal services
Decision made:	Award passenger transport contracts as detailed in Appendix 1.
Reasons for decision:	To ensure that the council manages its transport services effectively whilst also meeting its statutory duties and ensures children are transported to school in line with eligibility. The students transported on these school contracts having statutory entitlement. To contribute to the Highways and Transport savings target S18 set for the 2021/22 financial year “Review all mainstream school and college bus transport provision utilising bespoke journey planning software to develop more efficient routes, optimise vehicle use and reduce contracting costs”.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/eq quality considerations:	The Passenger Transport Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) complies fully with current procurement legislation, the Councils contract procedure rules, and established best practice. Applicants to join the DPS have to complete a thorough evaluation questionnaire which is then checked for compliance by Passenger Transport and Commercial Services. Applicants are only allowed to join the DPS if they meet all of the specified criteria. The e-portal used to carry out tendering exercises under the DPS ensures that contracts are securely advertised to all qualifying parties. The Passenger Transport DPS ensures that contracts are awarded fairly and transparently based on specified evaluation criteria. Selection questionnaires, contract specifications and conditions of contract have been written in consultation with legal and commercial services. All of the contracts tendered will replace contracts that were at the end of their contracted period, with some SEN transport contracts being combined to optimise efficiency. Tendering ensures compliance with the councils contract procedure rules and mitigates any risk of challenge. Tendering of these contracts has been carried out to accommodate students who hold statutory entitlement to school transport, and to continue the provision of essential bus services. After allowing for contracts ending during the same period the financial implications of these changes are reduced costs of £102k, contributing to

	<p>the delivery of passenger transport services within budget allocation.</p> <p>Contract BG212S is a discretionary award of transport in exceptional circumstances and is to be funded from S17 funding approved by Director Children's and Families. Contract NOR212S is to be funded by Worcestershire Council.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to proceed with re-tendering or the award of contracts. This is not recommended as this is likely to result in services being withdrawn and could mean that the council breaches its statutory responsibilities relating to school transport.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None</p>

Signed

Mairead Lane
Acting Director for Highways & Transport

Date: 25 June 2021