

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of transport contracts (Ref 0821)																																																																																																			
Date of decision:	8 September 2021																																																																																																			
Decision maker:	Interim Director Economy & Place																																																																																																			
Authority for delegated decision:	Economy & Place Scheme of Delegation updated 20 July 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 report has been reviewed by: Legal services Finance																																																																																																			
Decision made:	<p>The decision has been taken to:</p> <p>1. Award school transport contracts as detailed in the table below:</p> <table><tr><th>Contract</th><th>Supplier</th><th>School</th><th>Annual Value</th><th>Bids</th><th>Term</th></tr><tr><td>BS211S</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>Bridge School</td><td>£16,910</td><td>3</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>HL211S</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>Hereford & Ludlow College</td><td>£15,010</td><td>4</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>MAG211S</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>Mercia Training</td><td>£16,910</td><td>3</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>NS212S</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>National Star</td><td>£29,450</td><td>3</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>RV211S</td><td>Tim's Transport</td><td>Riverside, Worc</td><td>£34,200</td><td>4</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>RV212S</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>Riverside, Worc</td><td>£21,850</td><td>4</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>BC219S</td><td>C M Davies</td><td>Beacon College</td><td>£28,405</td><td>3</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>WAT212S</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>Hereford & Ludlow College</td><td>£30,210</td><td>3</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>Shropshire Council</td><td>Shropshire Council</td><td>Shrewsbury College</td><td>£20,662</td><td>N/A</td><td>2 Years</td></tr><tr><td>EM211</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>Earl Mortimer</td><td>£11,210</td><td>5</td><td>5 Years</td></tr><tr><td>JM211</td><td>Blue Line Taxis</td><td>John Masfield</td><td>£13,110</td><td>4</td><td>1 Term</td></tr><tr><td>WC211</td><td>High Town Taxis</td><td>Whitecross</td><td>£5,141</td><td>4</td><td>2 Terms</td></tr></table> <p>2. Approve contract price variations as detailed in the table below.</p> <table><tr><th>Contract</th><th>Annual Increase</th><th>% Increase</th><th>Reason</th></tr><tr><td>NEW211</td><td>£5,700</td><td>9%</td><td>Additional passenger</td></tr><tr><td>WB211</td><td>£1,900</td><td>2.3%</td><td>Additional passenger</td></tr><tr><td>BC23S</td><td>£5,057</td><td>9%</td><td>Additional passenger</td></tr></table>						Contract	Supplier	School	Annual Value	Bids	Term	BS211S	Blue Line Taxis	Bridge School	£16,910	3	5 Years	HL211S	Blue Line Taxis	Hereford & Ludlow College	£15,010	4	5 Years	MAG211S	Blue Line Taxis	Mercia Training	£16,910	3	5 Years	NS212S	Blue Line Taxis	National Star	£29,450	3	5 Years	RV211S	Tim's Transport	Riverside, Worc	£34,200	4	5 Years	RV212S	Blue Line Taxis	Riverside, Worc	£21,850	4	5 Years	BC219S	C M Davies	Beacon College	£28,405	3	5 Years	WAT212S	Blue Line Taxis	Hereford & Ludlow College	£30,210	3	5 Years	Shropshire Council	Shropshire Council	Shrewsbury College	£20,662	N/A	2 Years	EM211	Blue Line Taxis	Earl Mortimer	£11,210	5	5 Years	JM211	Blue Line Taxis	John Masfield	£13,110	4	1 Term	WC211	High Town Taxis	Whitecross	£5,141	4	2 Terms	Contract	Annual Increase	% Increase	Reason	NEW211	£5,700	9%	Additional passenger	WB211	£1,900	2.3%	Additional passenger	BC23S	£5,057	9%	Additional passenger
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Reasons for decision:	<p>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.</p> <p>To deliver a free or discounted bus travel scheme that will: Incentivise people to return to leisure and social activities, and visit across Herefordshire - kick starting the economy Increase footfall in market Towns, the City centre, and across the wider County</p>																				
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>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.</p> <p>Full details of the Covid-19 recovery free bus travel scheme can be found at this link http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=8154</p> <p>The listed school contracts are required to provide transport to students who hold statutory entitlement. Contract BC219S being a replacement for an existing contract handed back by a supplier, and the remaining contracts being additional capacity to accommodate annual student intake for September 2021.</p> <p>The financial implications of these changes are:</p> <p>An increase in SEN school transport costs of £147,789 in the 2021/22 financial year which can be afforded from within Passenger Transport budgets An increase in mainstream school transport costs of £26,722 in the 2021/22 financial year which can be afforded from within Passenger Transport budgets The Covid-19 recovery scheme variations are to be funded from cost centre C06379</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:	None																				

Signed

Date: 8 September 2021

Neil Taylor
Interim Director for Economy & Place