

COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

10/07/18

Subject:	Approval to Tender for Locallink and Easylink Bus Services		
Corporate Director(s)/ Director(s):	David Bishop, Corporate Director of Development and Growth Zahur Khan, Director of Traffic and Transport		
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Dave Liversidge, Portfolio Holder for Transport and HR		
Report author and contact details:	Mark Garlick, Transport Strategy, 0115 876 4675 Chris Carter, Head of Transport Strategy, 0115 876 3940		
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Reasons: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital
Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Total value of the decision: £2,850,000			
Wards affected: All	Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): Councillor Sally Longford Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Local Transport - 10 May 2018		
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:			
Strategic Regeneration and Development			<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools			<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing			<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer			<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector			<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years			<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture			<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration			<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):			
<p>Approval to tender for the operation of contracts for the Dial-a-Ride services (known as "Easylink") and for 5 "Locallink" subsidised bus services. These serve elderly and disabled residents in areas of the City that are away from the commercial bus network. The cost of these contracts is currently £564,975 per year and approvals for this expenditure continue until 27 January 2019. Thereafter, services will need to be awarded by competitive tender.</p> <p>These services carry 200,000 passengers each year, of which 70% are concessionary pass holders.</p>			
Areas that are served only by these services (with wards in brackets)			
L1 Silverdale Estate (Clifton North)			
L5 Wollaton Park Estate (Wollaton East and Lenton Abbey), Lenton Boulevard (Dunkirk and Lenton)			
L6 Norwich Gardens, Sandhurst Road (Bulwell)			

L7

Charlbury Road (Wollaton West)

L22/3 (Clifton North, Clifton South)

No specific areas would be un-served, but the service provides direct links between Clifton and Silverdale, Clifton and West Bridgford and Clifton and the Embankment Medical Centre. The service is part-funded by Nottinghamshire County Council.

Easylink (All)

Dial-a-Ride service for eligible members of the scheme, and companion, in all parts of the City.

Exempt information:

State 'None' or complete the following.

None

Recommendation(s):

1 To undertake a procurement process for the Easylink and Locallink bus services.

2 To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Development and Growth to award a contract to the successful provider following the outcome of the tender (for 3+1+1 years), subject to the costs being within current budget levels.

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To continue the services, upon the expiry of the current contracts, without disruption for passengers.
- 1.2 A new provider will be identified following the outcome of the tender process.
- 1.3 Within the tender process, opportunities for efficiency savings in providing these services will be sought.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 The need to tender the contracts was discussed at the Portfolio holder meeting of 10 May 2018
- 2.2 To enable all parts of the City to have a given public transport accessibility to vital services, reflecting that over half of its residents have no access to a car.
- 2.3 The services are disproportionately used by those with mobility issues and, as such, save the City Council and Health sector from more expensive forms of specialist provision.
- 2.4 All Link bus services are fully monitored throughout their contract for usage and performance.
- 2.5 The use of electric buses is a key factor in meeting the Council's cost saving targets and meeting its carbon reduction commitment.
- 2.6 The total cost of running the contract is expected to be £2.85m in total. This is based on running for 5 years.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Withdrawing services due to rising cost was rejected, as it would lead to disruption for passengers and the removal of access to public transport for some areas of the City, where commercial services would be more than 400m from residents.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 The actual cost of the contracts for operation of the bus services identified in the report over the next 5 years will not be known until the procurement exercise is completed. It is anticipated that the new contract value will be contained within the Public Transport budgets which currently exist for provision of this service. Should the contract exceed £2.85m, the cost will need to be contained within the Public Transport service.

Susan Tytherleigh – Finance Business Partner, 11/05/2018

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND INCLUDING LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 Legal Observations

The current contract for Locallink and Easylink Bus Service is due to expire and the Council is required to re-tender the services to continue its commitment of supporting elderly and disabled residents to access their community by use of public transport services in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations.

- 5.2 The report seeks approval to undertake a tender process to establish a contract for the services going forward.
- 5.3 The report proposes an initial term of 2 years with 3 further options to extend for up to 1 year each time at the Council's sole discretion subject to available funding, which is hoped will allow the Council to manage the contract efficiently, ensuring value for money and flexibility in delivery of the service.
- 5.4 Legal services will continue to work with the service area and procurement colleagues during the tender process to ensure that the requirements are accurately developed within the contractual arrangements with the chosen provider.

Dionne Screamon, Solicitor, Contracts and Commercial, 24/04/2018

5.5 Procurement Comments

Procurement colleagues will assist with the tendering process to ensure that a fully compliant value for money contract is entered into.

Paul Ritchie, Lead Procurement Officer, 11/05/2018.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (STRATEGIC REGENERATION COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

6.1 N/A

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Withdrawing the services was rejected as it would lead to disruption for passengers and the removal of access to public transport from some areas of the City, where commercial services would be more than 400m away from residents.

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

8.1 N/A

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because:

The report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions, or decisions about the implementation of policies development outside the Council.

Yes



Attached as Appendix x, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

10.1 N/A

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

11.1 N/A