

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

4584

Author:

James David Howe

Department:

Growth and City Development

Contact:

James David Howe

(Job Title: Principal Public Transport Officer, Email: james.howe@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 876 4676)

Subject:

Real-Time Information System operational costs up to March 2023

Total Value:

£550,000 (Type: Capital and Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To seek approval to award an interim Contract with suppliers of Real-Time Passenger Information System services up to March 2023, to allow for the implementation of a newly tendered set of contracted services;
- 2) To approve the spend associated with the award;
- 3) To delegate authority to the Public Transport Head of Service to sign the contracts.

**Reasons for the Decision(s)**

The Council provides a number of services to enhance the public transport offer within the City, including the largest Real-Time Passenger Information (RTPI) System and Estate outside of London. This system provides up to date, high quality, live public transport information to citizens and is a vital tool in the recovery of public transport in Nottingham following the pandemic.

Executive Board approval was obtained on 16th June 2020 to proceed with a tender process for a new RTPI System, to tender for 5 Lots to provide 5 excellent functions. Tenders have since been evaluated and subject to final approvals being provided, Contracts will be awarded to the winning bidders in March 2022. The staggered implementation phase is due to be completed by March 2023. Further interim spend is however needed to pay the current system providers to 1) ensure a continuity of service for the bus passenger and 2) to facilitate the change from using one system to a new system.

The incumbent suppliers' services are good value for money, with annual price increases being capped at 3%. The services highly benefit residents and visitors that use the public transport system as clear, accurate and up to date travel information is made available to the passenger via various mediums, including the passenger information screens. Such information includes a countdown to when you can expect your bus to arrive or to provide disruption to service updates. The benefits and highly regarded reputation that comes with them offer a firm base to encourage modal shift from car to bus or tram and lead to Nottingham having nation leading satisfaction rates with regards to public transport provision. The newly tendered services will bring even greater value for money but it will take until March 2023 to feasibly implement the new system.

£165,000 of Capital is required and £385,000 Revenue. The Capital budget is available via Transforming Cities Fund 'Real-Time' Project code, where this spend is allocated to. Public Transport Service Area manages the applicable 'Real-Time' Revenue Budget and there is available budget to meet these costs.

**Other Options Considered:**

Not approving this spend would mean a loss of important live journey time and disruption information for public transport using residents and visitors as the electronic bus stop displays would go blank across the region as the system covers displays in Derby, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire too. The timeline to implement a new system cannot be brought forward from being complete by March 2023. Therefore this option is rejected.

**Background Papers:**

None

**Published Works:**

None

**Affected Wards:**

Citywide

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:**

None

**Consultations:**

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

Electronic bus stop displays going blank for a consistent period of time is a very visible maintenance issue reputationally, but it may also encourage crime and anti-social behaviour at the stop, leading to vandalism of the asset or other assets at a bus stop.

**Equality:**

EIA not required. Reasons: Reasons: The decision does not relate to new or changing policies, services or functions.

**Decision Type:**

Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:**

Yes

**Call In Expiry date:**

07/04/2022

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:**

It is understood that these services form part of the public transport service offered by the Council and so uninterrupted provision is important within the City.

A tender process has been undertaken for a new contract which will be awarded in March 2022 but due to the timeline required for transition and implementation of the services from the successful provider, a period of time in which the existing arrangements need to continue is required.

As a result of the restricted requirements for this existing service prior to the new arrangements being completed and the fact that only the current suppliers are able to deliver the services and support the transition, the recommendations in this report to award a short term contract for this period are supported. It is understood that an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules has been approved in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. It is recommended that the implementation period is kept to the minimum duration possible. Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamor (Solicitor) on 28/03/2022.

**Finance Advice:**

As this is a continuation of a core service, this spend is required. Costs will be managed within the public transport budget and Capital via the Transforming Cities fund. This will create no pressure on the MTFP.

The £385,000 Revenue and The £165,000 Capital relates to Public Transport services (Infrastructure, Concessionary fares, Robin hood cards, and link bus services), With the service period from March 2022 to March 2023.

Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&D)) on 28/03/2022.

**Procurement Advice:**

**A tender process has been undertaken for a new contract which will be awarded in March 2022 but due to the timeline required for transition and implementation of the services from the successful provider, a period of time in which the existing arrangements need to continue is required.**

**As a result of the restricted requirements for this existing service prior to the new arrangements being completed and the fact that only the current suppliers are able to deliver the services and support the transition, the recommendations in this report to award a short term contract for this period are supported. It is understood that an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules has been approved in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. It is recommended that the implementation period is kept to the minimum duration possible. Advice provided by Paul Ritchie (Procurement Manager) on 28/03/2022.**

**Signatures**

<b>Rosemary Healy (Portfolio Holder Highways, Transport, Cleansing)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 30/03/2022</b>
<b>Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth &amp; City Development)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 30/03/2022</b>