

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



**Nottingham**  
**City Council**

Reference Number:

2132

Author:

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Department:

Development

Contact:

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Subject:

Award of contract to operate the Schoollink A1 and A2 bus services

Total Value:

£584,025 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) To note that a procurement process has been undertaken to identify the successful supplier of the Schoollink A1 and A2 bus services.
- 2) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Development to award the contract for the operation of bus services for up to 5 years (3 years +1 year +1 year at the Council's sole discretion).

**Reasons for the Decision(s)** It is necessary to procure and award this contract for the continuation of the following Schoollink bus services in the north and north west of the City:

**A1 Basford - Bulwell - Snape Wood - Cinderhill - Bluecoat School - Trinity School**  
**A2 Hucknall Lane - Rise Park - Bestwood Park - Bluecoat School - Trinity School**

The Schoollink bus services form part of the Linkbus network which comprises of a collection of 40 bus routes, established with external partners, to provide access to workplaces, health, education and district centres. It carries around 5.2 million passengers per year.

**2.2 These Schoollink services are retained as it would lead to long interchange change trips for a critical mass of school pupils, with some of these trips taking over 60 minutes to complete.**

**2.3 The Linkbus network forms part of an integrated network of services that school and college students can use on one ticket. There are no longer any specialist, expensive bus services dedicated to this sector, having been withdrawn as part of previous strategic choices savings. The funding for this contract was passed to Development and Growth from Childrens Services some years ago, and a significant saving was made.**

**These services will continue, as at present, with no changes to routes or timetables.**

**Other Options Considered:** **Withdrawal of the services was considered inappropriate as it would lead to significant disruption for passengers. Without these services, it would be necessary for school pupils to make long, 2-stage journeys, involving interchange in either Bulwell or the city centre. This would put a critical mass over 150 children onto the regular bus network at peak travel times. Although there is some debate about the legal situation, it is the view of Nottingham City Council that these services to faith schools are statutory.**

**Background Papers:** **None**

**Published Works:** **None**

**Affected Wards:** **Aspley, Basford, Bestwood, Bilborough, Bulwell, Bulwell Forest, Leen Valley**

**Colleague / Councillor Interests:** **No particular issues, since services will continue as at present. There will be no change to the operator, the routes, or the timetables.**

**Consultations:** **Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.**

**Crime and Disorder Implications:**

No implications.

**Equality:**

EIA not required. Reasons: No implications.

**Decision Type:**

Portfolio Holder

**Subject to Call In:**

Yes

**Call In Expiry date:**

21/08/2015

**Advice Sought:**

Legal, Finance, Procurement

**Legal Advice:**

The proposals in this report are supported. The continuation of these services will ensure the Council can provide school pupils with simple access to schools covered by the routes without impact on the regular bus network at peak times.

A fully compliant open OJEU process has been undertaken for the procurement of the new services to identify the successful supplier and there are no legal issues with the proposed procurement. Advice has been sought from the Corporate Procurement and Legal Team with respect of the tender process and contractual arrangements.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 25/06/2015.

**Finance Advice:**

This decision seeks approval to award the contract to operate the Schoollink A1 and A2 bus services for a period of up to 5 years at a cost of £0.584m. This cost can be met from existing Public Transport tendered services budgets. The contract will be awarded following an open tender exercise to ensure value for money.

Advice provided by Maria Balchin (Finance Analyst) on 05/06/2015.

**Procurement Advice:**

An open tender exercise was undertaken to source this contract. Advice provided by John Watson (Category Manager) on 02/06/2015.

**Signatures**

Nick McDonald (Portfolio Holder for Jobs, Growth and Transport)  
 SIGNED and Dated: 14/08/2015  
 David Bishop (Deputy CE, CD for Development and Growth)  
 SIGNED and Dated: 06/08/2015