

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Highways Cabinet Board

7 July 2016

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport

D. W. Griffiths

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

Award of Contracts for Subsidised Local Bus routes

Purpose of Report

- 1 To inform members of the award of contracts to bus companies who operate subsidised Local Bus routes in Neath Port Talbot.

Executive Summary

- 2 Members will be aware of the report of 28th January which informed you of the intention to retender Local Bus, Home to School and Social Service contracted Bus and Taxi services.
- 3 Members will also be aware of a further report of 26th May seeking authority to withdraw two routes from the main tender process owing to significantly higher prices being submitted than current prices, and that these routes were to be the subject of a mini competition.
- 4 This report provides an update on the actions already taken by the Integrated Transport Unit and confirmation that all subsidised local bus routes have been awarded and that the new contracts will commence on 1st September.
- 5 All subsidised local bus routes have been maintained successfully. However, operators on some routes have changed.

Background

- 6 The Council subsidises a limited number of local bus routes via a Welsh Government Grant £312,372. This grant enables operators to provide transport to areas which are not commercially viable for them to operate. Typically, these are areas that are remote or have low patronage.
- 7 On 28th January an information report was brought to E&H informing Members of the intention to retender Passenger Transport, Home to School and Social Services contracts.
- 8 Bids were submitted for passenger transport services on 11th April and the prices for two routes were significantly higher than the prices currently being paid.
- 9 Permission was sought to withdraw the two routes from the tender process and to enter them into a mini competition which was endorsed by the E&H cabinet on the 26th May.
- 10 Nine routes which were subject to the full tender process have been awarded for five years. The two routes which were the subject of the mini competition have been awarded for a period of one year. These will be retendered next year for a period of four years to bring them into line with the main five year contract award for passenger transport services.
- 11 Home to school and Social Services contracts has also been awarded. However, these will be reported to ELL and SSHH who have budget responsibilities for the services provided.

Financial Impact

- 12 Tender bids for all routes for five years total £249,639.
- 13 The two routes put out to the mini competition total £82,548 per annum.
- 14 The Bus Services Support grant (BSSG) budget for '16-'17 is £312,372 which will leave a shortfall of £11,559 for September '16 to March '17.

- 15 The shortfall of £11,559 can be funded from £27k of BSSG re-allocated to the Council which from the overall regional funding allocation.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 16 A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this proposal does not require an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Workforce Impact

- 17 There will be no significant impact on the Integrated Transport Team resources.

Legal Impact

- 18 Compiled with EU OJEU, Welsh Government and internal corporate procedure rules.

Risk Management

- 19 There is no risk for the financial year '16-'17, however the two routes which will have to be retendered next year may be unaffordable. A decision will need to be made at that time on a way forwarded for the financial years 2017 to 2021.

Consultation

- 20 There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

- 21 Information only

Reason for Proposed Decision

- 22 To ensure continuity of bus service to areas where subsidised routes were retendered.

Implementation of Decision

23 The contracts were awarded on 24th June.

Appendices

24 Nil

List of Background Papers

25 Nil

Officer Contact

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