

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

**DECISION OF COUNCILLOR COLIN HALL, EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES
with advice from the DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



DECISION NO: P&C81

SUBJECT: AWARD OF HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACTS NS116

DECISION: Contracts are awarded for each of the routes on the attached schedule and they are to commence operation on 6th June 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The School Admissions and Transport team is responsible for the safe, secure and timely transportation of around 2,800 pupils each day. This includes 300 pupils who have formally assessed severe and complex additional needs, as well as other vulnerable children and young people.

The routes provided to achieve these travel arrangements are delivered by local transport operators under contract to the council.

Routes are due for periodic re-tendering and are exposed to the market on a regular basis to ensure that best quality service is provided at a reasonable cost to the council.

Reasons:

The School Admissions and Transport team continually review the home to school travel provision to ensure that an efficient, effective and sustainable network of routes is in operation.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Previously a Restricted Tender has been used, which is a two stage process with a PQQ (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire) stage and then an invitation to tender if they pass the PQQ stage.

We have been using an Open Tender which is a one stage process. We want to encourage a range of transport operators to apply, particularly from the local area some of whom will be smaller operators.

Routes were awarded on a 50% quality and 50% cost basis, and this is due to children and young people being transported to and from school. Some of them will have severe and complex additional needs.

The team can carry out ad-hoc tenders when transport is required outside of the usual procurement times. This could be due to families moving into or around North Somerset, or when children are placed in specialist schools. This might be for a brand new route or a change to an existing route, either in distance or size of vehicle.

Financial Implications:

The financial risk in awarding these contracts is low, given that:

1. The council is invoiced by transport operators in arrears on a monthly basis for work that has already been completed. No advance payment of council funds is made to them.
2. The procurement exercise shows that despite a challenging economic situation, local competition in the transport market remains strong. The closure, or failure to perform, by any operator is extremely unlikely to place the council at undue risk of failing to provide its statutory services.
3. The conditions of the contract have robust and proven cost recovery and break clauses to limit the council's exposure to additional costs should an operator close or fail to perform the service as specified.

No individual contract for a route exceeds the value of £32,262 per annum. The maximum contract price by vehicle type is shown below.

Vehicle Type	Maximum whole Contract Award Value
4 Seat Car	£41,724.00
4 Seat Accessible Car	£16,873.14
5 Seat MPV	£21,557.40
6 Seat MPV	£26,425.20
8 Seat MPV	£34,770.00
8 Seat Accessible MPV	£51,391.20
12 Seat Accessible Minibus	£6,954.00
14 Seat minibus	£146,648.46
16 Seat Minibus	£155,825.46
16 Seat Accessible Minibus	£59,039.46
18 Seat Minibus	£88,099.20

Cost savings

The routes that we have tendered for provide a cost saving of £149,090.42 over the whole life of all the contracts awarded. This assumes these routes will remain the same, as they have been tendered, during this period.

In the first year of the contracts, if the routes remain the same, there will be a saving of £61,328.20.

Implications for future years:

The savings stated above will be made up to the end of the 2020/21 financial year. This is due to taxi contracts being awarded for up to two years and minibus contracts up to five years.

Routes can change, be amended or removed when children and young people move in and out of North Somerset, or change school placements. This could then affect the future savings.

Signed:
Councillor Colin Hall
Executive Member for Children and Young People's Services

Dated:

Reviewed:
Trevor Isaac
Service Accountancy and Development Manager

Confirmation of advice given:

Signed:
Sheila Smith
Director of People and Communities

Dated:

SCHEDULE 1 - Contracts to be awarded

Contract Ref	Operator	Vehicle Type
2271T	OPERATOR A	TAXI
2273A		6 SEAT MPV
2285A1		TAXI
2285B		6 SEAT MPV
2286A		TAXI
3349PA		ACCESSIBLE TAXI
6200A		TAXI
4141A		TAXI
7035A		TAXI
8223A		TAXI
BTRE12		TAXI
BTRE3N		TAXI
BTREE9		12 SEAT ACCESSIBLE MINIBUS
PRI01A		TAXI
WHAV6B		TAXI
2284B		OPERATOR B
3115B	6 SEAT MPV	
3455A	TAXI	
4129N	6 SEAT MPV	
4139B1	6 SEAT MPV	
4139C	5 SEAT MPV	
4143B	TAXI	
4143B3	6 SEAT MPV	
7003A	TAXI	
7032A	TAXI	
WHAV2A	6 SEAT MPV	
WHAVHA	6 SEAT MPV	
2292A	OPERATOR C	TAXI
3116A		TAXI
4141C		TAXI
6195A		TAXI
7005C		TAXI
BTREE8		8 SEAT ACCESSIBLE MPV
3091A	OPERATOR D	TAXI
3104A		6 SEAT MPV
3348B		TAXI
7025LS		TAXI
RAVEBH		TAXI
RAVEJL		TAXI

WHAWE4

8 SEAT MPV

3108A1	OPERATOR E	16 SEAT MINIBUS
3113A		16 SEAT MINIBUS
4129L		16 SEAT MINIBUS
4139B		18 SEAT MINIBUS
3130D	OPERATOR F	TAXI
4136C		TAXI
4137B	OPERATOR G	16 SEAT MINIBUS
7011A1	OPERATOR H	16 SEAT ACCESSIBLE MINIBUS
BTREE4		16 SEAT ACCESSIBLE MINIBUS
BTREE5		16 SEAT MINIBUS
RAVE3		16 SEAT MINIBUS
RAVE5		14 SEAT MINIBUS
RAVE6		16 SEAT MINIBUS
WHAWE1		16 SEAT MINIBUS
WHAWE5		16 SEAT MINIBUS
WHAWE6		16 SEAT MINIBUS