

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Corporate, Education, Social Care and Wheelchair Accessible Taxis Tender Award

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 12 July 2011

Cabinet Member: Councillor Bowyer and Councillor Sam Leaves

CMT Member: Director for Corporate Support
Director of Services for Children and Young People

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Ref: Contract 10098

Key Decision: Yes

Part: 1

Executive Summary:

Plymouth City Council spent in excess of £ 1.1 Million on the provision of Corporate, Education, Social Care and Wheelchair Accessible Taxis in 2010/11.

Two Contracts let for Taxis in April 2007 are due to expire at the end of July 2011. A formal tender was therefore advertised through a Restricted Procedure on 24th September 2010. Following consultation with Children's Transport and Legal a decision was reached to abort the process at the Pre Qualification Questionnaire stage due to the extremely low response, which it was considered would prevent genuine competition between the tenderers and reduce the opportunity to the Council to achieve value for money.

A further formal tender was therefore advertised through the Accelerated Restricted Procedure on 24th December 2010.

The tender has resulted in a recommended contract award value at £6,353,385 for five years, with a possible option of additional one plus one years, separated into two contracts. For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the full details of the proposed contract award are included within a separate Part II Report.

Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014:

At the commencement of the tender process, the principal aims were to ensure 1) Improving Customer service, 2) keeping Children safe and 3) providing better value for money.

The recommended solution supports the Corporate Improvement Priorities identified in the corporate plan 2011 – 2014 as follows:-

- Reduce inequality – Access to services and opportunities through transport provision
- Provide value for communities – Customer satisfaction with the council offering VFM

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land**

The recommended solution will increase spend by approximately £163,113 per year over the contract duration (five years + optional one plus one year). However, costs will remain fixed for 5 years for 68% of the total spend and for 3 years for the remainder of the spend.

Other Implications: e.g. Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Duty and Equalities Impact Assessment:

- Health and Safety – to ensure the safe transportation of vulnerable children and adults from home to school and other establishments
- Risk Management – to ensure that Plymouth City Council meets its legal obligations in the transport vulnerable children and adults from home to school and other establishments
- Equalities Duty - eliminating discrimination, advancing equal opportunities and fostering good relations
- Equalities Impact Assessment – not undertaken as the provision of transportation is a legal requirement

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

That two contracts for the provision of Corporate, Education, Social Care and Wheelchair Accessible Taxis be awarded according to the report’s recommendations. The contracts will be for up to seven years (five years initially with an option for the authority to extend for up to a further two years subject to the providers’ satisfactory performance).

For reasons of commercial confidentiality, the full details of the proposed contract award are included within a separate Part II Report.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

The authority could operate without a corporate contract, however this would increase not only costs but also expose the authority to increased legal risks.

The contract could be awarded to another contractor, however the award report details a fair and transparent evaluation process which identifies the best value for money for the authority. Reversing the evaluation panel’s decisions may have legal implications and make the council subject to commercial risks.

Background papers:

Contract Award Report (Part II)

Sign off:

Fin	MC SRA/C hSO33 7/16.6. I	Leg	SC 9973	HR	MCG MG 1106/0 01	Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	PWC 1112.003
Originating SMT Member: Malcolm Coe – AD for Finance, Assets and Efficiencies											